

express

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Weekend



An Iraqi soldier guards a Baghdad checkpoint.

Official Held: High-placed Iraqi accused of militia ties | **6**

Autism Alarm: Study finds 1 in 150 children has disorder | **3**

Pat on the Back: Hoyas set to honor 100 years of history on Saturday | **13**

ENTERTAINMENT

Oscar to 'Norbit':

Eddie Murphy puts on the fat suit (again) for a silly comedy that likely won't earn him any awards.

>> **19-29**

Weather >> Mostly Sunny



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FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 42



SPRING SHOE PREVIEW

PLUS: CAST A VOTE IN OUR \$35,000 WEDDING GIVEAWAY | **WEEKEND STYLES**



Palestinians Reach Unity Deal

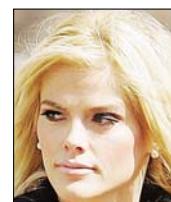
ACCORD: The exiled leader of the ruling Islamist Hamas movement, Khaled Meshal, right, embraces Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Thursday. Palestinian factions signed a pact to form a unity government after marathon talks in the Saudi holy city aimed at ending lethal infighting and a crippling international boycott. ♦ **New hope:** Palestinians celebrate | **Page 6**

Ex-Model Smith, 39, Dies in Fla.

Former centerfold, widow of oil tycoon collapses at hotel

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. | Anna Nicole Smith, the voluptuous former Playboy centerfold who married an octogenarian billionaire and waged a legal battle for his fortune all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, died Thursday after collapsing at a hotel. She was 39.

The blond bombshell was found unresponsive while staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, said her attorney, Ron Rale. She was rushed to a hospital.



Smith

Edwina Johnson, chief investigator of the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said the cause of death is under investigation and an autopsy will be done on Friday.

A private nurse called 911 after finding Smith unresponsive in her sixth-floor room, said Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger. He said Smith's bodyguard administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation about an hour before she was declared dead. (AP)

♦ **Fodder:** Smith's bombshell looks and marriage to an elderly billionaire made her a tabloid staple | **Page 4**



PARENTING | I See Where He Gets His Truancy

A bill introduced in the Texas legislature would make it illegal for parents to miss conferences with their children's teachers, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported. The bill — which would make

missing the meetings a criminal misdemeanor — has upset parents. Most teachers said they welcome any effort to involve parents in their children's education. However, teacher Kathleen Gilbert said, "It's a little severe." (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | **Page 2**

eyeOpeners

SAFETY

Remember: At Least One Hand on the Wheel



A renown Scottish safety expert was arrested for shaving while driving, Sky News reported. Edward Hutcheson was on his way to a seminar on first aid in Dundee when police caught him shaving with one hand while driving 70 mph in rush-hour traffic. Hutcheson said he was shaving because he was running late, but said he wasn't driving dangerously. Police said he also had a dozen mannequins — used for first-aid training — in his back seat that restricted the view in the rear-view mirror. Hutcheson was found guilty of careless driving, was fined \$590 and had his driver's license suspended for six months. (EXPRESS)

BANKS

Here's Your Pot! Want a Free Lollipop?

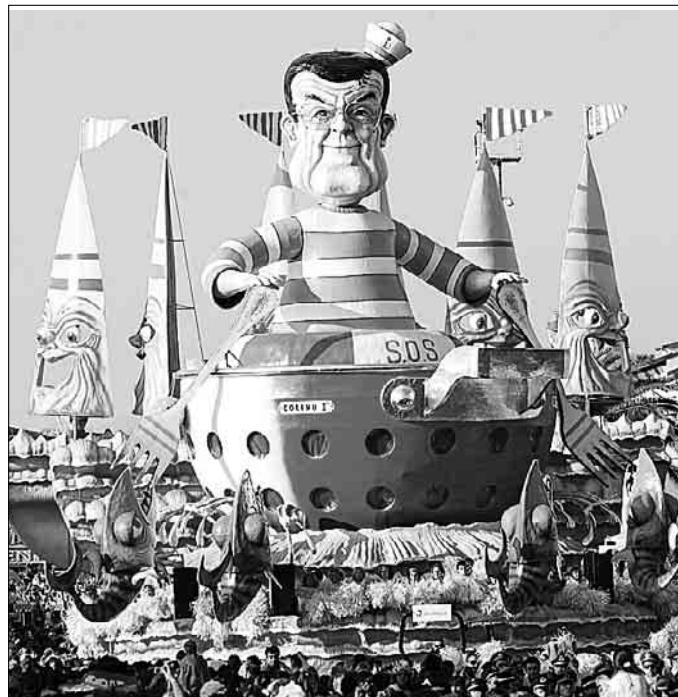
Adrian Hilton of Iowa City, Iowa, was accused of stashing marijuana in a deposit bag and slipping the bundle into a night deposit box at American Bank and Trust in Iowa City. Hilton

admitted the marijuana was his and that he had inadvertently deposited it, officials said. Hilton was charged with possession of marijuana, but assistant county attorney David Tiffany said he would ask a judge to dismiss the charge, since a bank teller gave the marijuana back to Hilton when he returned to the bank the next day. (EXPRESS)

POLITICS

Get Out the Float

Hmm. It's doubtful that a huge depiction of Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi rowing a sieve with forks was some sort of government-engineered propaganda. But, whatever the political message of his depiction on a large float that made its way through the streets of Viareggio, Italy, on Sunday, it made the city's annual Carnival parade much more entertaining than any type of event that Macy's has ever sponsored. (EXPRESS)



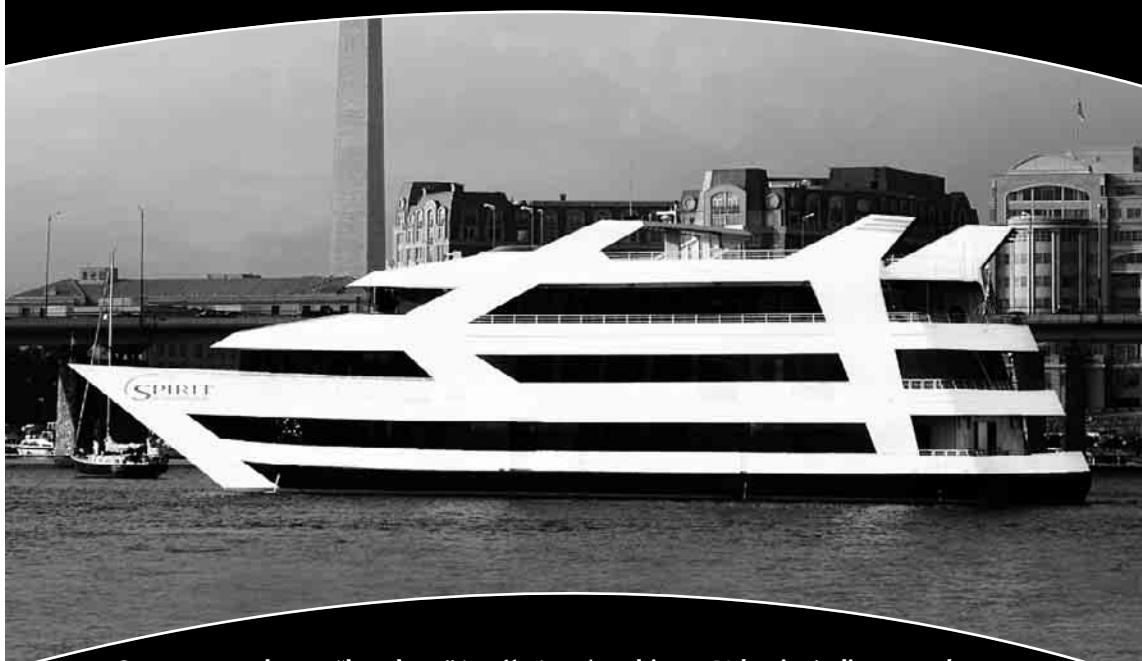
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We don't have time to check the door locks — get that metal saw over here!

UNGRACEFUL EXITS Stay Calm! We Have The Jaws of Life!

Confused rescue crews in Rosvik, Sweden, began removing the roof of a parked taxi, thinking the occupants were trapped, the Norrland Social Democrat reported. Taxi driver Hans Lantto said he came across an accident and pulled over to help. Two passengers were injured, and Lantto let them sit in his warm taxi to wait for emergency services. When crews came, they saw the injured riders in the taxi, and, assuming the victims were trapped, immediately began removing the roof of the vehicle. (EXPRESS)

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PANE SALE: A window owned by a man who says it was part of Lee Harvey Oswald's sniper perch in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is up for auction on eBay. The starting price was \$100,000.



Nation

In Brief

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF. Marine Withdraws Guilty Plea for Killing Iraqi Civilian

A military judge granted a Marine corporal's request Thursday to withdraw his guilty plea to charges of murdering an unarmed Iraqi civilian who was dragged from his home and shot. Cpl. Trent Thomas asked to change the plea, saying he no longer believes he is guilty. Thomas now says he believes he was following a lawful order from his superiors. "Sir, when my country gives me an order, I follow it," Thomas told the judge, Lt. Col. Tracy Daley. (AP)



JOHN HELLER/POST-GAZETTE/AP

William Lorenzo Page, 23, was arrested on multiple charges, including homicide.

PITTSBURGH

Father Charged in Death Of Girl Left in Freezing Cold

The father of a 23-month-old girl who died of exposure had knocked her unconscious because he was angry she wouldn't go to bed, then took her out in freezing temperatures and left her there, police said Thursday. Nyia Miangel Page's father, William Lorenzo Page, was arrested on charges of criminal homicide, kidnapping, false reports and simple assault. (AP)

Prosecution Rests in CIA Leak Trial

Defense grills Russert over inconsistencies in stories with Libby

WASHINGTON | NBC's Tim Russert deflected criticism of his ethics and credibility as he completed a heated second day of cross-examination Thursday in the trial of former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

Russert — who testified that he never discussed CIA operative Valerie Plame, the wife of vocal war critic and former ambassador Joseph Wilson, with Libby — was the final prosecution witness before Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald rested his three-week perjury and obstruction case.

Libby's attorneys will begin calling witnesses on Monday.

The journalist was subjected to the kind of interrogation he usually



gives guests on his Sunday morning television show, "Meet the Press," as attorneys flashed excerpts of his previous statements on a video monitor and asked him to explain inconsistencies.

"Did you disclose in the affidavit to the court that you had already disclosed the contents of your conversation with Mr. Libby?" asked Theodore Wells, one of Libby's attorneys.

"As I've said, sir ..." Russert began.

"It's a yes or no question," Wells interrupted.

"I'd like to answer it to the best of my ability," said Russert, a law school graduate.

"This is a very simple question. Either it's in the affidavit or it's not," Wells then said. "Did you disclose to the court that you had already communicated to the FBI the fact that you had communicated with Mr. Libby?"

STAR WITNESS: Tim Russert, Washington bureau chief of NBC News, leaves the court on Thursday after testifying in the perjury trial of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

calculated an average autism rate of 6.6 per 1,000.

The research involved an intense review of medical and school records for children in all or part of 14 states and gives the clearest picture yet of how common autism is in some parts of the country, CDC officials said.

However, those states are not demographically representative of the nation as a whole, so officials cautioned against using the results as a national average. (AP)

Autism More Common Than Thought

1 in 150 children has disorder, according to most recent U.S. study

ATLANTA | About one in 150 American children has autism, an urgent public health concern, said U.S. health officials Thursday who reported on the largest study done so far on the troubling disorder.

The new numbers, based on 2002 data from 14 states, are higher than previously reported.

Advocates said the study provides a sad new understanding of how common autism is, and should fuel efforts to get the government to spend hundreds of millions of additional dollars for autism research and services.

"This data today shows we're

going to need more early intervention services and more therapists, and we're going to need federal and state legislators to stand up for these families," said Alison Singer, spokeswoman for Autism Speaks, the nation's largest organization advocating more services for autistic children.

The study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Nation



EXPENSIVE TASTE: Tina Burlett had thought someone broke into her house and stole a custom-made \$5,000 wedding ring. But her grandmother suspected the family dog, Missy. X-rays showed she was right. The pit bull had eaten the ring.

Anna Nicole Smith Dies Suddenly

Cause of death not yet known after former model collapses in Fla.

HOLLYWOOD, FLA. | Anna Nicole Smith, the pneumatic blonde whose life played out as an extraordinary tabloid tale — Playboy centerfold, jeans model, bride of an octogenarian oil tycoon, reality show subject, tragic mother — died Thursday after collapsing at a hotel. She was 39.

She was stricken while staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and was rushed to a hospital. Edwina Johnson, chief investigator for the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said the cause of death was under investigation and an autopsy would be done on Friday.

Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger said a private nurse called 911 after finding Smith unresponsive in her sixth-floor room at the hotel, which is on an Indian reservation. He said Smith's bodyguard administered CPR, but she was declared



Anna Nicole Smith, left, and her lawyer Howard K. Stern, right, leave the U.S. Supreme Court in this Feb. 28, 2006, photo. Smith died at age 39 on Thursday.

dead at a hospital.

Dr. Joshua Perper, the chief Broward County medical examiner who will perform the autopsy, said if her death was from natural causes, the findings would likely be announced quickly. He cautioned, however, that definitive results could take weeks.

Through the '90s and into the new century, Smith was famous for being famous, a pop-culture punchline because of her up-and-down weight, her Marilyn Monroe looks, her exaggerated curves, her little-girl voice, her ditzy-blonde persona and her over-the-top revealing outfits.

Recently, she lost a reported 69 pounds and became a spokeswoman for TrimSpa, a weight-loss supplement. On her reality show and other recent TV appearances, her speech was often slurred and she seemed out of it. Some critics said she seemed drugged-out.

"She wanted to be like Marilyn her whole life and, ironically, died in a similar manner," Smith's attorney Lenard Leeds told the Web site TMZ. SUZETTE LABOY (AP)

Senate Easily Approves Casey For Army Post

WASHINGTON | The Senate handily confirmed Gen. George Casey as the next U.S. Army chief of staff Thursday in a roll call vote that some lawmakers used to dramatize their anger over his direction of the war in Iraq.

Casey was confirmed by a bipartisan 83-14 vote. He had been the top U.S. commander in Iraq since July 2004, but President Bush replaced him with Army Gen. David Petraeus as part of an overhaul of his Iraq policies and his team of top U.S. officials in the Middle East.



Casey

The Senate a day earlier confirmed Navy Adm. William Fallon to replace Army Gen. John Abizaid as head of U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations throughout the Middle East. (AP)

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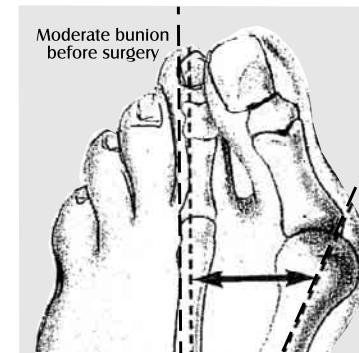
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Nation



WHITEOUT: Michael McCullagh of Mexico, N.Y., is shown with a face full of snow. Upstate New York has been buried by more than 6 feet of snow since Sunday.

'Unreal' Snowfall Hits Upstate N.Y.

Over 6 feet of winter weather buries towns — with more to come

OSWEGO, N.Y. | While the northern Plains and Northeast shiver in dangerously cold temperatures, the folks in upstate New York are keeping warm shoveling snow — lots of snow.

Since Sunday, the small towns of Parish and Mexico have recorded more than 6 feet of snow, and forecasters with the National Weather Service say it isn't over yet.

Another 2 feet or more of heavy lake effect snow was expected Thursday for the communities along eastern Lake Ontario, and more squalls are likely through the weekend.

"We're just trying to keep up. It's almost an unreal amount," said Mayor Randy Bateman of Oswego, where 70 inches of snow had fallen by Thursday morning. "We catch up when it stops, but then it just comes again, even heavier."

Whiteout conditions — the snow has been falling at a rate of 5 inches an hour at times — forced state police to temporarily close Interstate 81 between Central Square and Pulaski, a stretch of about 15 miles.

Travel advisories against unnecessary travel were posted for Oswego and its neighboring counties. Mexico officials renewed a snow emergency declaration, and many government offices were closed.

Schools were closed for a fourth day in Oswego and Mexico. (AP)

White House Defends Pelosi Request

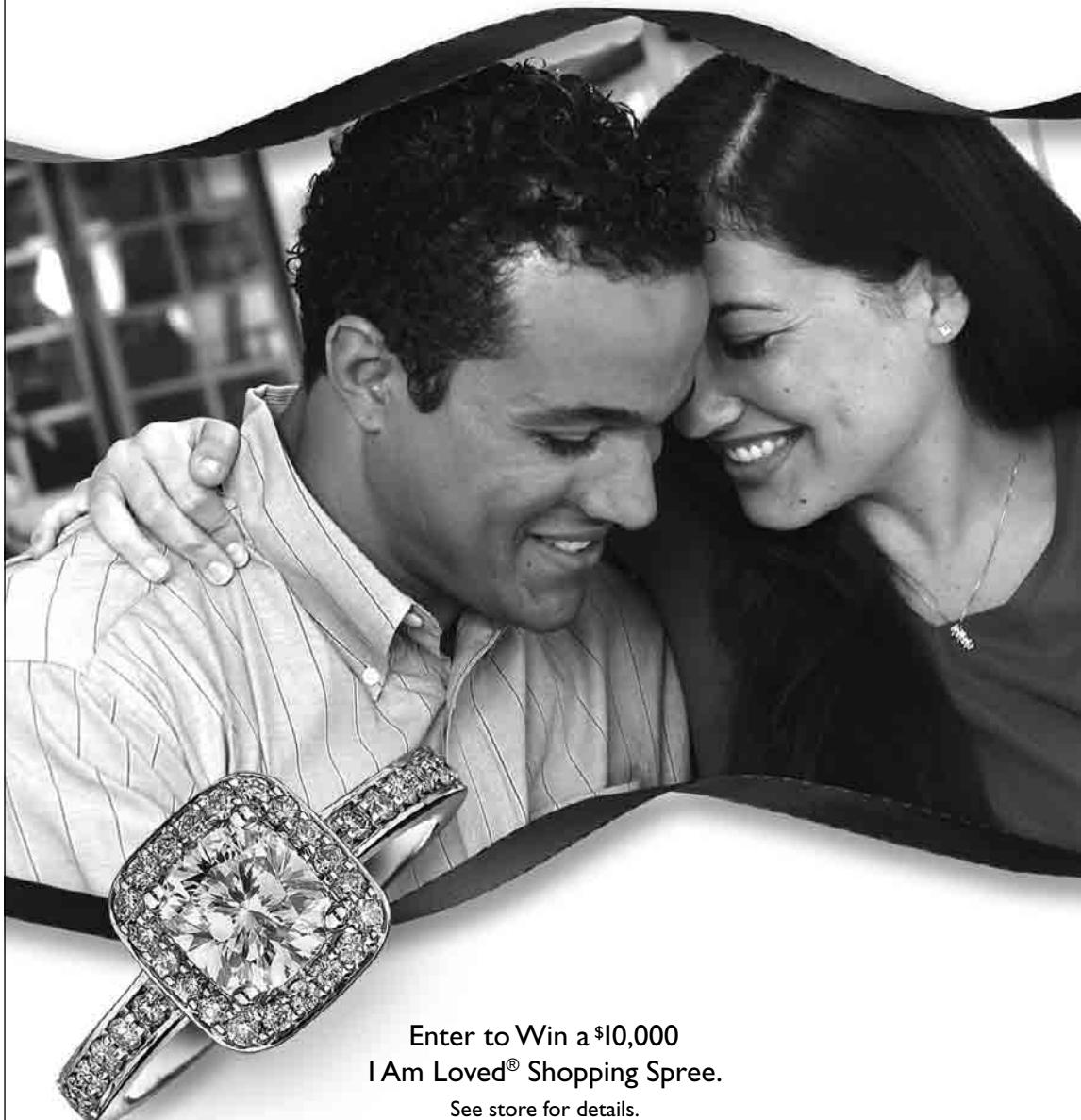
WASHINGTON | The White House on Thursday defended House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., against Republican criticism that her desire to fly in an Air Force transport plane is an extravagance.

"This is a silly story and I think it's been unfair to the speaker," White House spokesman Tony Snow said.

Republicans are taking issue with the size of the plane Pelosi would need to fly in to reach her hometown of San Francisco without refueling.

There are three Air Force airplanes that have the fuel capacity to make the trip nonstop, with the largest being a C-32 plane, a military version of the Boeing 757-200. (AP)

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World

TRAVEL-BOUND: President Bush is scheduled to tour Latin America in March, visiting Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala, Colombia and Uruguay. The White House on Thursday said Bush and first lady Laura Bush will visit the region March 8-14.



Strong Start to N. Korea Nuke Talks

Negotiations resume on positive note with new draft agreement

BEIJING | Talks on North Korea's nuclear programs resumed on a positive note Thursday, with the Chinese hosts distributing a draft agreement and the North agreeing in principle to initial steps to disarm.

Envoy from six nations are trying to agree on steps to implement

a September 2005 deal in which North Korea pledged to disarm in exchange for aid and security guarantees. The 2005 deal — the only one to emerge since negotiations began in 2003 — was a broad statement of principles that did not outline any concrete steps for dismantling North Korea's nuclear program.

The main U.S. envoy, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, said the new proposal would be "a set of actions that would have to be

taken in a finite amount of time."

A South Korean official, speaking early Friday on condition of anonymity, said China circulated a draft proposal. The official gave no details, but other delegates said earlier that the agreement would outline initial steps for implementing the 2005 accord.



Hill

At the last round of talks in December, in the wake of North Korea's Oct. 9 underground nuclear test, the communist nation refused even to talk about its nuclear programs. Instead, Pyongyang demanded the U.S. lift financial restrictions.

Since then, the U.S. and North Korean nuclear envoys held an unusual one-on-one meeting in Germany last month where differences between the sides were apparently discussed.

BURT HERMAN (AP)

Key Iraqi Official Is Arrested

Deputy health minister accused of having ties to Shiite death squads

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | U.S.-backed Iraqi forces stormed the Health Ministry and arrested the No. 2 official Thursday, accusing him of diverting millions of dollars to the biggest Shiite militia and allowing death squads use of ambulances and government hospitals to carry out kidnappings and killings.

Shiite politicians allied with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr denounced the arrest of Deputy Health Minister Hakim al-Zamili as a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and demanded that the prime minister intervene to win his release.

But Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his senior advisers remained silent. Al-Maliki, a Shiite, is under strong U.S. pressure to crack down on Shiite militias and has pledged not to interfere in the security operation to rid Baghdad's streets of gunmen from both Islamic sects.

A U.S. military statement did not mention al-Zamili by name but said Iraqi special troops captured a "senior official" suspected of alleged corruption and links to al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia. (AP)



NEW BEGINNINGS: Palestinians celebrate in the Gaza Strip Thursday upon hearing the news of a new power-sharing accord.

Palestinian Rivals Reach Unity Deal

Hamas, Fatah forge power-sharing accord but language is vague

MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA | Rival Palestinian factions signed a power-sharing accord aimed at ending months of bloodshed Thursday, agreeing that the Islamic militant group Hamas would head a new coalition government that would "respect" past peace agreements with Israel.

However, the United States and Israel have demanded the new government explicitly renounce vio-

lence, recognize Israel and agree to uphold past peace accords. The vague promise to respect past deals — a compromise reached after Hamas rejected pressure for more binding language — did not appear to go far enough.

U.S. and Israeli acceptance is crucial to the deal's success. Unless they are convinced Hamas has sufficiently moderated, the West is unlikely to lift a crippling financial blockade of the Palestinian government, and it will be difficult to advance the peace process.

Palestinians hope the agreement will avert an outright civil

war. Hamas and Fatah gunmen have clashed repeatedly in recent months, killing dozens.

Saudi Arabia — which put its credibility on the line by hosting the high-profile summit — will likely now face the task of selling the agreement to its ally, the U.S.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, of Fatah, and Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal headed two days of intense negotiations in a Mecca palace overlooking the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine — a venue Saudi Arabia chose to step up the pressure on the two sides to compromise.

MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH (AP)

In Brief



EDWAR AP
Indonesians use a rope to steady themselves along a flooded street in Jakarta.

JAKARTA, INDONESIA

At Least 53 Reported Killed As Rains Bring New Floods

Residents working in waist-high mud salvaged family photos from washed-out neighborhoods as fresh rains Thursday triggered more flooding, compounding the misery for hundreds of thousands forced from their homes. At least 53 people were killed in the floods, while some 84,000 others have been treated for ailments including itchy skin or colds resulting from contact with dirty water or exposure, the Health Ministry said. (AP)

PARIS

Judge Charges 2 Officers Linked to '05 Youth Riots

A judge in the Paris suburb of Bobigny has charged two police officers in connection with the 2005 electrocutions of two teens who hid from police in a power substation, judicial officials said Thursday. The deaths sparked three weeks of rioting in France. The two officers were charged for "non-assistance to people in danger," which carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and up to a \$97,400 fine. (AP)

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA

Attackers Fire Mortar On City Square, Wounding 8

Unknown assailants fired a mortar on a square in Somalia's capital Thursday, wounding eight civilians and prompting Ethiopian troops to shoot into the air to deter further attacks. It was the latest attack in a city beset by spiraling violence since the Ethiopia-backed December ouster of the Islamic movement that had controlled Mogadishu and much of southern Somalia. (AP)



SONGSTRESS: Berlin's annual film festival opened Thursday with a portrait of the turbulent story of singer Edith Piaf — part of a strong French contingent at this year's event. Olivier Dahan's "La Vie en Rose" is the first of 22 movies competing for the top Golden Bear award at the first major European film festival of the year.

World

Iran Plans Retaliation if U.S. Attacks

Khamenei warns U.S. interests will be hit if Tehran is invaded

TEHRAN, IRAN | Iran stepped up its warnings to the United States Thursday, with the nation's supreme leader saying Tehran will strike U.S. interests around the world if his country is attacked.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's words were also likely meant as a show of toughness to rally Iranians, who are increasingly worried about the possibility of American military action as the two countries' standoff has grown more tense.

The United States says it has no plans to strike Iran militarily, but has sent a second aircraft carrier to the Persian Gulf in a bid to show strength in the face of rising



TALKING TOUGH: Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei asserted "any invasion would be followed by a comprehensive reaction" in Tehran on Thursday.

Iranian regional influence.

But many in Iran say they fear an attack. Iranian media and Web

sites have almost daily commentaries on a possible U.S. attack — some of them blaming hard-line Presi-

dent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the deterioration in the already sour U.S.-Iranian relations by his provocative rhetoric against America and Israel.

Speaking to Iranian air force commanders, Khamenei said: "The enemy knows well that any invasion would be followed by a comprehensive reaction to the invaders and their interests all over the world." His words were carried on state-run TV.

Even as Iran's rhetoric has escalated, it has increasingly insisted it is open to a diplomatic solution to its standoff with the West. Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, said Wednesday he would meet European officials for talks on Iran's nuclear program during a security conference this weekend in Munich, Germany. NASSER KARIMI (AP)

Castro Now Able To Ingest Food, Envoy Reports

CARACAS, VENEZUELA | Cuban leader Fidel Castro's health has improved following a post-intestinal surgery period in which the aging revolutionary icon temporarily stopped eating, Venezuela's ambassador to Cuba said Thursday.

Ali Rodriguez Araque said Cuban officials observing Castro have seen "a significant improvement in his health, even his appearance," which was clear from footage of a recent meeting between Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

"He's improving progressively. The problem is that at first he didn't ingest food. Now he is ingesting food, and that has helped him significantly," Rodriguez told Venezuelan state television. (AP)

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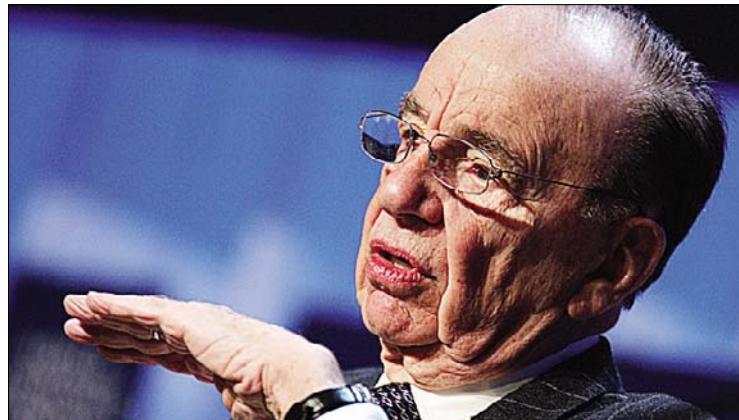
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Money



In Brief

NEW YORK

Kodak to Cut 3,000 Jobs In Trimming of Work Force

Eastman Kodak Co. is cutting 3,000 more jobs this year as the picture-taking pioneer wraps up its wrenching transformation into a digital-imaging company focused on consumer photography and commercial printing. By year-end, its work force will slip below 30,000, less than half what it was just three years ago. On top of 27,000 layoffs already targeted, Kodak said Thursday it is reducing its payroll even further to accommodate the \$2.35 billion sale in January of its health-imaging unit and its foray this week into the inkjet printer market dominated by Hewlett Packard Co. (AP)

NEW YORK

Subsidized Housing Complex In Brooklyn Sold for \$1.3B

The nation's largest government subsidized rental-housing complex will be sold for \$1.3 billion under an agreement reached Thursday, a spokesman for the property said. The deal calls for Starrett City, a 140-acre complex in Brooklyn, to be sold to Berkshire Partners LLC, said Martin McLaughlin, a spokesman for Starrett City Associates. There were seven bids for the property made up of nearly 6,000 apartments in 46 buildings. (AP)

Fox Business Channel To Launch in the Fall

NEW YORK | Rupert Murdoch said Thursday that a business news channel his media company News Corp. plans to launch in the fall will be more "business-friendly" than its rival CNBC.

Speaking at a media and technology conference in New York, Murdoch said there would be more details on the long-awaited channel announced soon. He said there was a "great opportunity" there.

The project has been in the works for several years, and the company has said it would only get launched if enough distribution were in place. Recently, the company signed up Time Warner

Cable, a division of Time Warner Inc. that is the second-largest cable provider in the country.

Murdoch, speaking in a question-and-answer session with Steve Adler, the editor of Business Week magazine, said the new Fox business channel would be friendlier to the business world than CNBC.

"They leap on every scandal," he said.

Murdoch also said News Corp. was seeing rapid growth from its MySpace unit, the leading social networking site on the Internet, where advertising revenues were growing about 30 percent every quarter. SETH SUTEL (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Lennox	35.45	+4.01	+12.8
Carlisle	93.32	+9.58	+11.4
GnCable	47.40	+4.63	+10.8
StarGas	3.99	+.37	+10.2
Nautilus	18.20	+1.56	+9.4

Losers

NwCentFn	19.24	-10.92	-36.2
SpectBrd	9.89	-1.71	-14.7
NovaStar	18.31	-2.29	-11.1
Fremont	12.41	-1.54	-11.0
WrightEx	28.38	-2.74	-8.8

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25	.5107	.5078	.5750
Fed Funds close	5.25	5.3125	Canadian Dollar	1.1824	1.1506
3-month disc	5.02	4.99	European Euro	.7670	.8373
2-year	4.88	4.92	Japanese Yen	121.05	120.66
10-year	4.73	4.81	Mexican Peso	10.9479	10.9677
30-year	4.84	4.91	Taiwanese Dollar	33.02	33.03

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
NxStageMd	12.10	+3.60	+42.4
SpecLink	11.66	+2.85	+32.3
Luminex	16.44	+3.71	+29.1
TeleTech	33.46	+6.46	+23.9
Iomai	6.08	-.03	-0.5

Losers

IsilonSys n	20.83	-4.48	-17.7
PacerIntl	27.71	-5.58	-16.8
Gymbree	37.30	-6.84	-15.5
Corvel s	38.30	-6.86	-15.2
SyntaxBril	7.99	-1.38	-14.7

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5107	.5078	.5750
Canadian Dollar	1.1824	1.1852	1.1506
European Euro	.7670	.7688	.8373
Japanese Yen	121.05	120.66	118.53
Mexican Peso	10.9479	10.9677	10.5130
Taiwanese Dollar	33.02	33.03	32.34

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	52.14	-.31	+7.0
Allergan	114.81	-.23	-4.1
AstraZen	57.46	-.54	+7.3
BarrPhm	53.75	+.20	+7.2
BrMySq	28.70	-.16	+10.2
ForestLab	55.34	-.06	+9.4
Hospira	37.00	-.11	+10.2
JohnJn	65.76	-.04	-.4
LillyEli	54.21	-.21	+4.0
Merck	43.92	-.34	+7
MylanLab	22.40	+.16	+12.2
Pfizer	26.44	-.08	+2.1
SchergPl	24.65	-.02	+4.3
Sepracor	54.83	-.04	-11.0
Wyeth	50.33	+.11	-1.2



CROSS TO BEAR: On Thursday, a half-dozen critics and supporters of College of William and Mary President Gene R. Nichol's decision to put a chapels' cross in storage had the chance to vent to the Virginia public school's Board of Visitors.

Local

Hope Alive for Ailing Zoo Elephant

Officials say the aging pachyderm recovering from rupture and clot

WASHINGTON | Ambika, one of the oldest Asian elephants in North America, has suffered from recent health problems but seems to be improving, the National Zoo said Thursday.

The 59-year-old elephant lost her appetite last month and showed signs of lethargy, and tests revealed a low red blood cell count. Veterinarians performed an ultrasound exam Wednesday and found excessive blood and a clot in Ambika's reproductive tract — likely caused by a ruptured vessel.

"It's potentially very serious, but today she's doing very well," said Suzan Murray, the zoo's chief veterinarian.

The blood clot did not pose an immediate danger and could be serving as a "bandage" for the ruptured vessel, zoo officials said.

Ambika's appetite and behavior have returned to normal over the past week, and her red blood cell count had returned to near-normal levels, Murray said.



Ambika, a 59-year-old Asian Elephant, recovers at the National Zoo in Washington on Thursday after falling ill from a blood clot in her reproductive tract. Ambika, one of the oldest Asian Elephants in North America, will be under close observation.

Murray said the bleeding and clot may be due to age-related changes within Ambika's reproductive tract, such as endometriosis or fibroid tumors, which are common in older elephants that

have never given birth.

"Trying to figure out what's going on inside of an elephant is like trying to figure out what's going on inside of a big gray box," Murray said. "There aren't many tools or techniques that

we have to look deep inside."

Several zoo departments are working together to help treat Ambika. They will monitor for any changes in blood and urine samples at least weekly. BRETT ZONGKER (AP)

Report: Latino Gangs Fueled by Anti-Immigration

WASHINGTON | Anti-immigrant backlash can marginalize Central American youths and increase the risk that they will turn to gangs for support, according to a study of Latino gangs in the area and five Central American countries.

The growth of such youth gangs "can be linked to U.S. deportation/anti-immigrant policies and (heavy-handed) Central American anti-gang policies," the researchers wrote in the study released Thursday.

The report from the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico and nonprofit advocacy group Washington Office on Latin America also attempts to refute the idea that gangs are engaged in an organized effort to spread their influence. (AP)

Bethesda Boiler Explosion Hurts 2

BETHESDA, MD. | Two people have been injured in a boiler explosion and flash fire.

County fire officials said it happened in the penthouse of the Bank of America Building.

Two maintenance men were working on the boiler when there was an internal explosion and a flash fire. The men, who are 48 and 60, were taken to the Medstar burn unit with facial burns. (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS: The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission dispatched crews to 67 locations in Prince George's and Montgomery counties Thursday. Some of the water-main breaks were phoned in by customers who noticed low water pressure. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, February 8

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	4-4-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	4-9-8
Mid-day DC 4	9-2-9-4
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	7-7-0-0

Rolling Cash Five (Wed.) **7-8-10-23-33**

Daily 6 (Wed.) **1-8-24-31-33-37 (22)**

Hot Lotto (Wed.) **12-14-17-19-28 (5)**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	7-2-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-0-4
Mid-day Pick 4	1-1-4-5
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	2-5-6-9
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-6-18-23-28 (38)

Multi-Match (Wed.) **8-16-22-32-34-42**

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	5-5-3
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-1-1
Mid-day Pick 4	8-8-3-9
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-1-2-0
Mid-day Cash 5	4-8-15-20-28
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	2-5-10-11-21
Win For Life (Wed.)	1-7-13-28-29-41 (23)

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.) **4-22-28-37-52 (10)**

Power Play **x3**

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Voting Bill Fast-Tracked

→ A constitutional amendment in Maryland that would allow voters to cast their ballots prior to Election Day was voted out of a House committee Thursday, putting the issue on the legislative fast track. | **Today's Post, Metro**

IN The Washington Post



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KEEP IT CLEAN: D.C. commuters can be a picky bunch. What's Metro chief John Catoe's top commuter pet peeve? "Dirty buses and dirty trains," he told Express. "I'm a stickler for clean vehicles — inside and out."

Local

Now in Charge, Catoe Looks Ahead

Express asks Metro's new GM 10 questions about transit service

INTERVIEW | John Catoe's first full week on the job as Metro's new general manager was eventful, with a series of delays on the Red Line, a bus fire and a security incident involving a suspicious object at the Braddock Road station. With a reform agenda in mind, Catoe has a full plate.

Express' Michael Grass kicks off a semi-regular dialogue with the former No. 2 transit chief in Los Angeles about transit issues facing Metro and the region. The full Q&A is available at readexpress.com. What follows are excerpts.

Metro is a vast bureaucracy, one that commuters don't understand.

What are your top three goals while steering the ship?

Accountability begins with ensuring a safe and reliable system. My first action was to announce the start of a new safety initiative. We are a safe system, but we must become an even safer one. We also need to do what we can to improve our service. Part of that is making sure that our infrastructure is well maintained and operated.

To do that, we need every employee focused on operations.... I plan to look at making us a leaner organization before the budget process is complete. Before we consider any kind of fare increase.

You have said the nation's capital will have a first-class bus system. Can you point to a non-rail transit project in Southern California that



MELINA MARA/TWP

NOW IN CHARGE: Metro's new general manager, John Catoe, rides the Blue Line.

you think could be adapted for use here?

In L.A., we had a network of rapid buses that stopped at a limited number of high-volume ridership stops. We had transponders on the buses

that would extend a green light when a bus was approaching. It did not turn a red light to green, but it did stay green enough to allow the bus to go through without having to stop at a red. These initiatives were popular

for our customers. They sped up bus trips by 25 to 30 percent. I think they would be well received here.

Part of Metro's funding issues is tied to the complicated relationship between the transit agency and the jurisdictions Metro must turn to for money. Are you hopeful that the region can come together to build a stronger system?

There is proposed federal legislation that has the federal government offering us \$150 million per year over 10 years if we get that matched from the jurisdictions that we serve. So far, the District of Columbia has already taken action to do that. I believe that Maryland and Virginia will follow suit and provide us with dedicated, stable funding. That still won't cover all of our operating costs, but it will make a huge difference.

 For the complete interview with John Catoe, visit readexpress.com

express

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6 Premier holiday GIFT GUIDES

Get great ideas for creative gift-giving, coming this holiday season in the Friday Weekend Styles section in Express!

November 17

HOTTEST '06 GIFT IDEAS



December 1

TECH AND GADGET GIFTS



December 8

GIFTS FOR HER/GIFTS FOR HIM



December 15

GIFTS FROM CHEAP TO CHIC



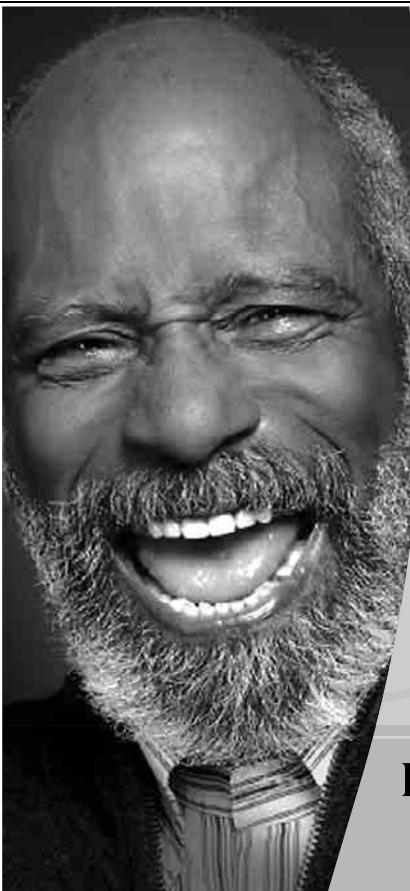
December 22

LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE



January 5

GIFT CARD USER GUIDE



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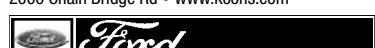
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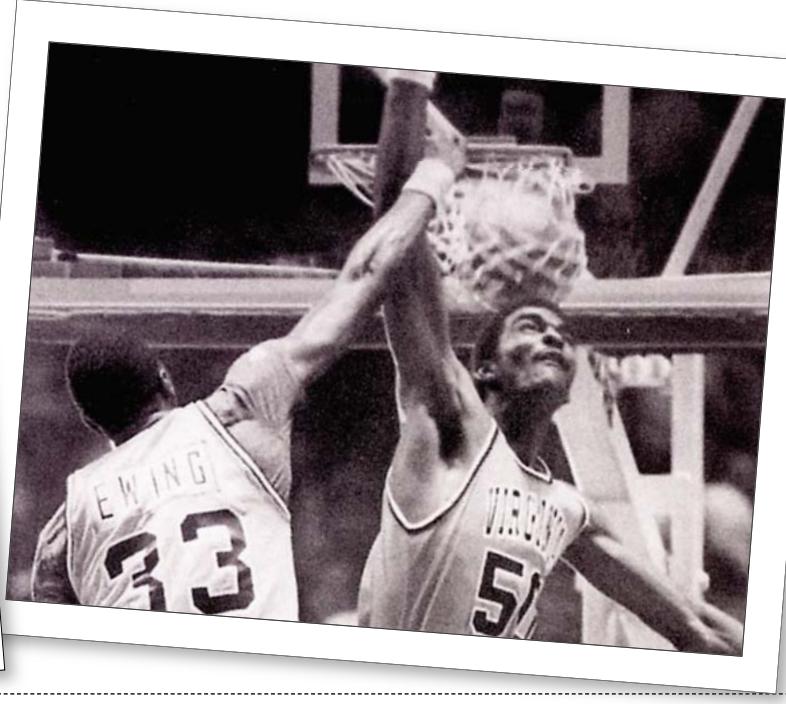
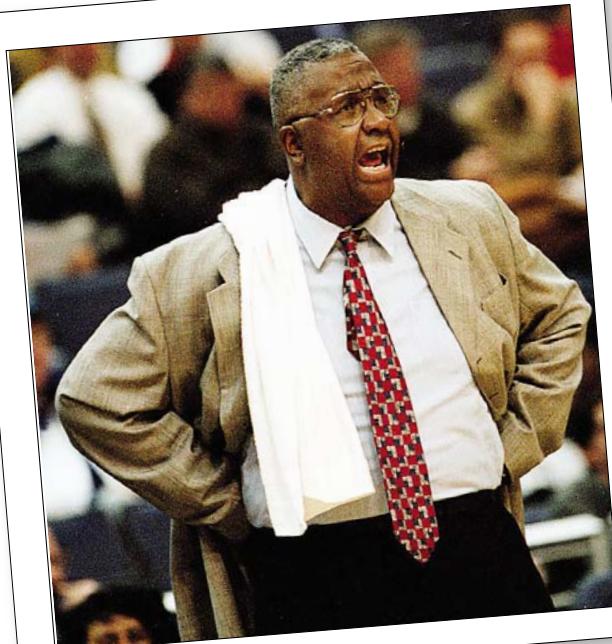
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**WIZARDS**

Blogged Down: In a modern version of a western shootout, Arenas announced on his blog a month ago he would score 50 on Sunday. | 14

Sports Weekend



TV Lineup

→ **BIG EAST BATTLE:** The No. 22 Hoyas have played their way into the NCAA Tournament with a six-game winning streak. Now Georgetown will try to prove its one of the Big East's best teams against No. 11 Marquette on Saturday (noon on ESPN).

→ **HALF SPEED:** It's that time, one week after the Super Bowl, when pro football players get together in Hawaii for one last big "game." Super Bowl

champ Peyton Manning leads the AFC against Drew Brees and the NFC on Saturday (6 p.m. on CBS).

→ **BRING DOWN THE HOUSES:** Rivalry week continues around the city and across the nation. Duke comes to College Park on Sunday (5 p.m. on FSN) to play the Terps with both teams badly needing wins to right the ships. Xavier comes to George Washington on Saturday (8 p.m. on ESPN2) in an A-10 showdown. And defending champion Florida travels to Kentucky for an always-contentious matchup on Saturday (9 p.m. on ESPN).

→ **BACK ON TRACK?** The Capitals have toughened up on defense recently, but, just like their star forward Alex Ovechkin, haven't scored much recently. On Saturday (7 p.m. on Comcast), they try to change that against the New York Rangers.



Team of the Century

Hoyas set to honor the school's greats during Saturday's showdown

HOYAS HOOPS | Fittingly, a Thompson will coach and an Ewing will play in a game Saturday in which the Georgetown Hoyas will honor 100 years of basketball.

For without the fathers of John Thompson III and Patrick Ewing Jr., Georgetown would not be the program it is today — a perennial contender with 23 NCAA tournament bids, 10 Sweet 16 showings, 12 Big East titles and one national championship on its resume.

Any success achieved by the Hoyas prior to 1972 pales in comparison to what coach John Thompson Jr. brought to the hilltop. And it didn't take long for the former back-up to Bill Russell and ex-Archbishop Carroll star to make his mark.

"With John's background, you knew he could recruit ... you knew

STARTING FIVE?

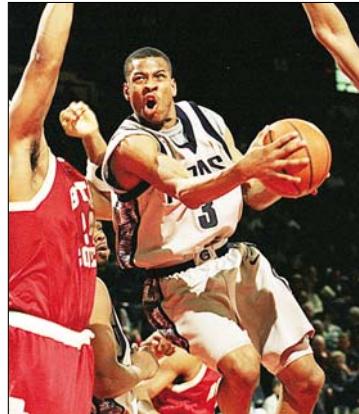
The official all-century team isn't released until Saturday. But this group seems like a good start:

- Eric "Sleepy" Floyd, 1982
- Patrick Ewing, 1985
- Reggie Williams, 1987
- Alonzo Mourning, 1992
- Allen Iverson, 1998

he would win," said Rich Chvotkin, who has been the Hoyas' radio play-by-play man since 1974.

Before Thompson, Georgetown's games were not on the radio, the team never made the NCAA Tournament, and its home court was the 2,500-seat McDonough Arena.

By 1975, the Hoyas were on the air — thanks to Chvotkin — and in the tournament. In 1981, Georgetown outgrew the on-campus site and moved to the Capital Centre. Not coincidentally, Thompson had just landed prized recruit Patrick Ewing (now Sr.).



Allen Iverson didn't graduate but is still one of the best to play for Georgetown.

The rest, as they say, is history.

With Ewing manning the middle, Georgetown made the NCAA final three out of four years, winning it all in 1984 over Hakeem Olajuwon and Houston.

"He changed the face of college basketball," Chvotkin said of Ewing. "He was the man. He put them on a different level."

Ewing's dominance certainly made life easier for Thompson to recruit many of the players who will be named to the all-century team during halftime of the No. 22 Hoyas' home game against No. 11 Marquette.

Ironically, many of Georgetown's most famous games were losses. There was the Ewing-Ralph Sampson duel in 1982, Villanova's perfect game in the 1985 championship and Fred Brown's inexplicable pass to North Carolina's James Worthy that set up Michael Jordan's game-winning shot in the 1982 title game.

Without Brown's faux pas, though, there would never have been that memorable hug two years later when Thompson embraced his previously ill-fated guard immediately after the biggest win of his career.

"That was a wonderful scene," Chvotkin said. "John always made the right decisions. He's such a bright guy." MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)

NFL | Tough Bet Scott Wiese, a die-hard Chicago Bears fan, will legally change his name to Peyton Manning after signing a pledge in front of a crowd at a Decatur bar last Friday night in which he vowed to adopt Manning's name if the Bears lost Sunday's Super Bowl to Manning's



Colts. Wiese will now have to advertise his intention in the local newspaper and then have a judge give him the OK. "I think I kind of represent all Bears fans," he said. "Not that I'm saying they're all idiots like me, but I represent their passion because I really care about my team." (AP)

Alex Ovechkin and the Caps play the Rangers Saturday.

Caps Aren't Sellers

Trade for defender shows the team still has hope of playoff run

CAPITALS | Officials from four NHL teams sat in the Verizon Center press box Tuesday night to watch the Washington Capitals and the Boston Bruins fight it out for 12th place in the Eastern Conference. The league's trade deadline was three weeks away, and clubs fading from the playoff picture often become targets for general managers looking to make a move.

But the Caps aren't sellers yet. Last week they sent a conditional draft pick to Boston for 23-year-old defenseman Milan Jurecina, who skated for Washington for the third time on Tuesday.

The move was well received in the Caps locker room, according to captain Chris Clark, whose team was 22-25-8 heading into last night's game against Los Angeles.

"I think it's great that management is showing they're putting effort forward for us," he said. "It's one thing when you start getting rid of guys and you look and won-



Milan Jurecina joined the Capitals last week and is already playing heavy minutes.

der what's going on. We still have a chance, and bringing in guys like him really helps our team."

The 6-foot-4, 233-pound Slovak was drafted in 2001 and played in last year's Olympics. Jurecina debuted for the Bruins last season but lately had been averaging just 11-12 minutes of ice time. Meanwhile, the Caps still are missing injured blueliners Brian Pothier, John Erskine and Bryan Muir and made the move for a player GM George McPhee said

has "growth potential."

Jurecina said he'd expected the trade — "It was all over the papers" — but was surprised to go to a younger team like the Caps. He's become an immediate fixture and was seven seconds away Tuesday from the leading the team in minutes for the third straight game.

"It feels awesome," he said. "The coach is trusting you and putting you in all situations. It's really good."

BRIAN STRAUS

One Gator Feeds Off Hate

As Florida's leader and energy guy, Noah gets the worst from fans

COLLEGE HOOPS | Florida forward Joakim Noah walked around campus early this week with a stack of fan mail.

Anything in there from Kentucky?

"No, that [would be] hate mail," Noah said. "It's a little different. I'm pretty much hated everywhere except for Gainesville. That's just the way it is I guess."

The 6-foot-11 junior gets more attention than any of his teammates on the road — most of it negative. He's sure to get harassed when the top-ranked Gators (22-2, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) play at No. 20 Kentucky (18-5, 7-2) on Saturday.



Joakim Noah says he feeds off the negative energy from opposing crowds.

How does he feel about it?

"I love it," Noah said.

He also feeds off it.

Noah has played a pivotal role in raising Florida's energy level the last two seasons, especially away from home. He yells, screams,

thumps his chest after big baskets and waves his arms at the crowd. Although his actions usually get himself and his teammates hyped, he also riles opposing fans and draws their ire.

At Kentucky last year, fans chanted, "Noah's a girl."

At Vanderbilt last season and at Auburn last month, they mocked him with cries of "ugly."

At Florida State in December, one sign read, "Noah got mono from kissing Brewer," a reference to Noah showing symptoms of mononucleosis while teammate and roommate Corey Brewer sat out two games with the viral infection.

"It's crazy the level they've taken it," center Al Horford said. "He's gotten it the worst out of anyone I've seen. It relieves pressure from some of us, but there's a lot of pressure on him." MARK LONG (AP)

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Hanging in Hawaii

Manning is mailing it in and just relaxing for his seventh Pro Bowl

NFL | Until this season, Peyton Manning was the quarterback who excelled in games that didn't matter — and no game matters less than the Pro Bowl.

Manning would grind through every practice in his six previous trips to Hawaii, even showing up early on game day for extra work with the NFL's best. His singular dedication earned the MVP award in the 2005 game, but didn't translate into playoff success.

After winning the Super Bowl this year with a less-than-perfect playoff performance, Manning intends to take things much easier in his seventh trip to Honolulu. He will hit charity events, spend plenty of time relaxing with friends from around the league — and won't worry about how much he'll play for the AFC on Saturday.

"There won't be a lot of motivation going on out there," Manning said. "This will be a cruise-control kind of week."



Peyton Manning, center, practices with the AFC Pro Bowl squad on Wednesday.

Though Manning intends to take it easy, he doesn't want anybody to know about it. Minnesota lineman Steve Hutchinson got in a playful shot at his longtime friend when they hung out in a restaurant downstairs at the players' resort on Oahu's west shore Monday night.

"He just looks at me and says, 'You've changed,'" Manning said. "Seriously, there's nothing more

you could say to me to make me madder. I hadn't brought (the Super Bowl) up one time. People are bringing it up to me, and I'm giving them my Elvis Presley: 'Thank you very much, thank you very much.'

"My whole goal the whole week is to prove to him how I'm very much the same guy. That's who I am."

GREG BEACHAM (AP)

Broncos' Williams Honored

Teammates remember slain back who talked of making Pro Bowl

NFL | Champ Bailey and John Lynch had the same idea for their latest trip to the Pro Bowl: They both wanted to wear No. 27 in honor of slain Broncos teammate Darrent Williams.

Williams died from a gunshot wound to the neck on New Year's Eve when his stretch limousine was repeatedly shot while driving away from a Denver nightclub. He was 24.

Most of the Broncos have been in varying degrees of shock since that day, when an overtime loss to the San Francisco 49ers kept them out of the playoffs. Hours later, Williams' murder rendered such concerns trivial — and not even another



Pro Bowler John Lynch said he wanted to wear Darrent Williams' No. 27 jersey.

trip to the Pro Bowl could stop his teammates from thinking about their fellow defensive back.

"I think about it every day,

sometimes every hour," said Bailey, a seven-time Pro Bowl selection. "We still don't know what happened, who did it. It's just tough to think how quick it can all happen."

Bailey and Lynch will wear their regular uniform numbers in Saturday's game after the NFL decided to put No. 27 decals on the back of every player's helmet in tribute to the Broncos' rising young cornerback. The three Broncos had discussed someday coming to the Pro Bowl together, and Lynch thought Williams had a chance to develop into a star.

"There's no question it's made a big impact on me and my teammates," Lynch said. "He was a guy who I really respected as a teammate and a person. It still hasn't sunk in, I guess. It's hard to believe what happened."

GREG BEACHAM (AP)

No Answers for Maryland

Coach doesn't know what the problem is as Terps prep for Duke

TERPS HOOPS | He has 558 career victories and a national championship ring, but Gary Williams doesn't have any answers.

At least he didn't on Tuesday night when, for 30 of the game's 40 minutes, his Maryland Terrapins played with all the heart and enthusiasm of a lobotomized slug in a loss to Virginia.

"I don't know what the problem is," the coach said.

Since the Atlantic Coast Conference season began, the Terrapins (17-7, 3-6 in the ACC) regularly have followed a solid performance with an abysmal one. Or two. And now they are slowly, painfully watching their NCAA Tournament hopes slip away in much the same manner as they have the previous two seasons.

And here's the good news, or bad news depending on the perspective: Duke comes to town on Sunday. The Blue Devils have been the Terrapins' fiercest rival, eliciting couch-burning fervor from the fans and usually postseason-esque intensity from the players.

"If we can't get up for that game, then there's no game we can get up



UP IN ARMS: Gary Williams, left, and his assistants react to a call during Maryland's loss to Virginia Tuesday in College Park.

for," freshman Eric Hayes said. "We have to come out and, right at the jump, have our intensity level up."

Williams refuses to call it a must-win game, but it can't be far from it.

Duke (18-6, 5-5) isn't quite the powerhouse its reputation suggests. The Blue Devils already have lost

as many ACC games as they have in any season since 1996, and currently are on a three-game losing streak. They've fallen at home to Virginia Tech, Florida State and North Carolina. Fans at Georgia Tech and Virginia have stormed the court after their team pulled upsets. That's what you do when

you beat Duke. And that's what fans in College Park desperately want to do on Sunday.

"I know we can beat Duke," freshman guard Greivis Vasquez said. "I know we can beat UNC. I know we can beat Virginia. But we've got to play hard and we've got to play together." DEREK TURNER

years, those that performed above average in their final 10 games — with records of 8-2 or better — made 42 appearances in the Sweet 16. Teams performing below average — with records of 7-3 or worse — made 38 appearances.

Among teams in the past five seasons that were seeded to reach the Sweet 16 but failed to get that far, 17 had records of 8-2 or better in their final 10 games — and 17 had records of 7-3 or worse.

The simplest measure of how small a part momentum plays heading into the tournament: Of 22 NCAA champions since the bracket expanded, 11 lost their final game before the tournament.

"I don't think there is much bearing there," Brey says. "The climate can change once you get into that next tournament."

MIKE DEOURCY (THE SPORTING NEWS)



Drew Neitzel, right, and the Michigan State Spartans have a tough road ahead.

The Great, Late Debate

Should a team's last 10 games matter for Tournament selection?

COLLEGE HOOPS | In the season's final month, Michigan State plays four games against teams in the top 15 of the Ratings Percentage Index. That gives Coach Tom Izzo more reasons to believe the NCAA Tournament selection committee should stop considering how teams perform down the stretch when choosing the 65-team field.

"I've never been a fan of that," Izzo says, "because I always thought it was schedule-related."

The stretch run for Notre Dame and Coach Mike Brey is not

as daunting. The Irish play twice against RPI top 25 teams, but at least seven opponents rank outside the top 50. He still believes it's a mistake to consider late-season performance for selection.

The "record in the last 10" component is codified as part of the criteria for selecting and seeding the field. It has been an official measure since the early 1990s. This element of the process is so ingrained in the minds of those who do the work of choosing the tournament teams — and those who follow the sport — that apparently no one has stopped to consider whether it belongs.

NCAA Tournament teams win about 74 percent of the games on their schedules. In the past five

Swengali

TERPS HOOPS | BY MATT SWENSON

Terps Shouldn't Be an NIT Team

NO OFFENSE TO THE NIT, but the Maryland Terrapins don't belong there. Not five years after winning the national title.

Yet here they stand. With three weeks left in the regular season, the Terps are not on the dreaded "bubble" — they are way off of it.

Unless a major turnaround occurs, Maryland will be headed to the NCAA tournament's red-headed stepchild for the third straight year.

Why? Because coach Gary Williams blew a golden opportunity after bringing a championship to College Park.

In the years since that title, all-star recruits Carmelo Anthony,

Gary Williams blew a golden opportunity after bringing a championship to College Park.

Rudy Gay and Kevin Durant have the left the state of Maryland to play elsewhere.

With a title in his back pocket, Williams should have been able to land at least one of those players, or at least replacements capable of reaching the Big Dance.

Spurned by Steve Francis' one-and-done act, Williams opted instead to find second-tier players who will stay four years.

Meanwhile, Georgetown has become the place to play if you're an area star. DeMatha's Austin Freeman and St. John's Chris Wright, two top-level recruits, have already signed to play for John Thompson III.

Williams needs to re-evaluate his recruiting process. He's a good coach who has done more at Maryland than anyone before him.

He's too good for the NIT, just like his basketball program.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

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Phillips To Coach In Dallas

San Diego's defensive coordinator beats out Turner in long search

NFL | Wade Phillips was hired Thursday to coach the Dallas Cowboys, providing the club with an experienced replacement for Bill Parcells and someone well-versed in the 3-4 defense.

The seventh coach in team history, Phillips is only the second to arrive in Dallas with previous head coaching experience. The other was Parcells, who retired Jan. 22 after four seasons with the Cowboys.

Phillips, defensive coordinator at San Diego the past three seasons, has a 48-42 head coaching record over three seasons with Buffalo, two with Denver and season-ending interim stints with New Orleans and Atlanta.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones interviewed 10 candidates before hiring his sixth coach since buying the team in 1989. Phillips was interviewed two weeks ago, and his chances of getting the job seemed to be fading when supposed favorite Norv Turner was among five more who followed him.

But Jones chose the defensive-minded Phillips over Turner.

"We needed to get it right. In my mind we got it right," Jones said, getting emotional as he introduced Phillips. STEPHEN HAWKINS (AP)



Phillips



BREAKING AWAY: Floyd Landis, left, rides away from a group of riders during the 17th stage of last summer's Tour de France, when he helped secure himself the win.

Landis Will Not Race In France This Year

Agreement postpones a decision on cyclist's future until summer

CYCLING | Floyd Landis will skip the Tour de France — and all races in France this year — as part of an agreement with French doping authorities in a case that could strip him of cycling's most prestigious title.

Last year's Tour champion had hip-replacement surgery 4½ months ago and was unlikely to have competed in this year's Tour. He agreed Thursday not to race again in France until 2008, and in return the French anti-doping agency postponed its decision on whether to suspend him from competing in France for a maximum of two years because of a positive doping test.

Earlier, AFLD president Pierre Bordry said Landis "understood perfectly that if he didn't act today, we would start the procedure immediately."

Landis will go before the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency on May 14 and, following that, the AFLD will deliver its verdict in June.

The American, who has denied wrongdoing, did not appear at Thursday's meeting of the AFLD's nine-member panel, but sent a lawyer who read his request for a delay.

"In this case, and in order to avoid any misunderstanding, I agree to voluntarily not participate in any professional or amateur cycling event in France until December 31, 2007," Landis said in the letter.

Landis' urine sample after a 17th-stage win in last year's Tour de France was found to contain elevated testosterone to epitestosterone levels. He risks being the first rider in the 104-year history of the race to be stripped of his title. Prudhomme has said the Tour no longer considers him the winner.

Landis argues that the Chatenay-Malabry laboratory which carried out the tests is unreliable.

JEROME PUGMIRE (AP)

Bears' Tank Johnson Pleads Guilty

NFL | Bears defensive lineman Terry "Tank" Johnson pleaded guilty Thursday to violating probation in a 2005 gun case.

Cook County Judge John Moran denied a request to lift the player's home confinement, but said Johnson could leave his house to attend

practices. Moran delayed sentencing until March 15 so that a presentencing investigation can be done.

The hearing Thursday came four days after Indianapolis beat Chicago 29-17 in the Super Bowl. The same judge allowed Johnson to travel to Miami for the game.

Johnson was arrested on misdemeanor weapons charges Dec. 14 after police raided his home in the Lake County town of Gurnee, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago, and found six unregistered firearms.

At the time, he was on probation after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge. (AP)



NIGHTLIFE AGENDA

Krunked: At Comet on Saturday, DJ Tittsworth helps say goodbye — with dope beats — to DJ Ragz before he moves to the West Coast | **22**

Entertainment Weekend



BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE: Eddie Murphy puts on the fat suit — and the nerd suit and the offensive Asian suit — in "Norbit."

Plastic Laughs

Eddie Murphy eeks out a few chuckles in the juvenile 'Norbit'

FILM | Someday soon he'll be Academy Award winner Eddie Murphy, and he'll be that for the rest of his life. For now, though, he's "Norbit." And Rasputia. And Mr. Wong.

Yes, Murphy once again crawls inside the fat suit, Klump-style. Painful as this often is to watch because it can be so unfunny and one-note, Murphy manages to wring out a few laughs. He just goes for it. He immerses himself completely, and you have to appreciate his commitment, if not his taste in material.

The real star, though, is Rick Baker, the six-time Oscar winner for makeup effects. Baker doesn't just pile layers of latex on Murphy and send him out into the world resembling a cousin of Martin Lawrence's Big Momma or Tyler Perry's Madea. He makes you feel like you're watching a real person.

It is an undeniably impressive

feat, especially during the scene in which the rotund Rasputia visits a water park in a pink bikini. You see rolls, you see stretch marks, you see infinite dimples of cellulite. You don't want to look at it — and yet you can't turn your eyes away.

Unfortunately, there's also a movie underneath all that, too.

Murphy stars as the titular Norbit, a lisping nerd who was raised in an orphanage and has long been picked on. But he's found salvation through two women in his life: Kate (Thandie Newton), the sweet little girl who befriended him in his youth, and the brutish, bullying Rasputia, who commandeers him in junior high school and eventually becomes his wife.

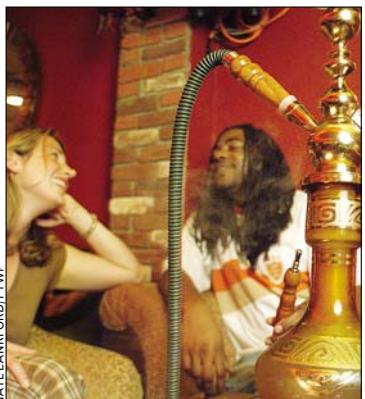
The head-swiveling, finger-wagging Rasputia comes from a long line of comic types. So does Murphy's other character, orphanage owner Mr. Wong, who chronically mispronounces all his L's and R's and who dislikes blacks and Jews.

Both might seem offensive if you took the time to take them seriously. But that would be a serious waste of energy.

Let's hope that the awards and acclaim Murphy has received for his work in "Dreamgirls" will inspire him to think twice from now on about puerile pictures like "Norbit." The combination of the two speaks to his versatility, if not his pride. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



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VALENTINE'S DAY SINGLES: Try some hookups & hookahs at Chi-Cha Lounge.

I'm new to D.C. and single. I'm just curious where a fun, 25-year-old gal should go on Valentine's Day or this weekend to meet other singles.

There are a lot of singles events going on over the next week. You can get a laundry list in the Nightlife Agenda column and in our special Love Week section at washingtonpost.com. But try the "no couples allowed" party at Chief Ike's next Wednesday, Chi-Cha's "night before Valentine's" event on Tuesday and maybe the "Hatentine's Day All-Hate Review" at Palace of Wonders, since the Evil Hate Monkey's routines can be pretty audience-interactive.

→ *Chi-Cha Lounge*, 1624 U St. NW; 202-234-8400. (U St.-Cardozo)
 → *Chief Ike's*, 1725 Columbia Rd. NW; 202-332-2211. (Woodley Park-Zoo)
 → *Palace of Wonders*, 1210 H St. NE; 202-398-7469.

I'm going to a gallery show in Georgetown and don't know what to wear.

I think you'll find that an arty crowd — which I'm assuming this will be — tends to dress down but does it with imagination. So, no matter what you decide, think about how you can be original.

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

'Entering' Is Emotionally Frosty

Anthony Minghella's latest film is overly contrived and shallow

FILM | Writer-director Anthony Minghella leaves viewers with their faces pressed to the glass, looking in on but not really involved with "Breaking and Entering," a dramatic study of a London couple and an immigrant mother and son whose lives cross over a series of burglaries.

Juliette Binoche and Ray Winstone, along with Robin Wright Penn, bring more depth and soul to the film than the somewhat superficial characters and overly contrived situations warrant.

Law plays a landscape architect drawn together with a teenage Bosnian thief and his mother. Minghella casts about widely, exploring societal transience, economic and political displacement, bias against immigrants and the notion that crimes of the heart may be far more sinister than felonious misdeeds.

In the end, the film wraps up



BEHIND THE GLASS: Even Jude Law can't connect with "Breaking and Entering."

awfully neatly considering how sloppy and unraveled the characters' lives had been at the height of their conflicts. Some supporting players seem tacked on to little purpose, notably Vera Farmiga as a pesky prostitute who forges a weird alliance with Will (Law).

An emotional frostiness in much of Minghella's work, including "Cold Mountain" and best-picture Academy Award winner "The English Patient," is distinctly present here, hindering the audience's ability to connect with the people on screen. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Weekend Entertainment

Silence of the Lambs

Vile 'Hannibal Rising' should have stayed dead and buried

FILM | Hannibal Lecter grew tiresome the second and third times Anthony Hopkins played him as a full-blown psychopath in all his seasoned, insatiable glory.

Young Hannibal, as played by Gaspard Ulliel in the ponderously silly "Hannibal Rising," is a green, boyish, bland pup by comparison.

Watching the earnest but under-qualified Ulliel perpetrate

Hannibal's initial grisly slayings is like going back in time to hear the screeches of a violin virtuoso's incipient swipes on the strings the first time he picks up the instrument.

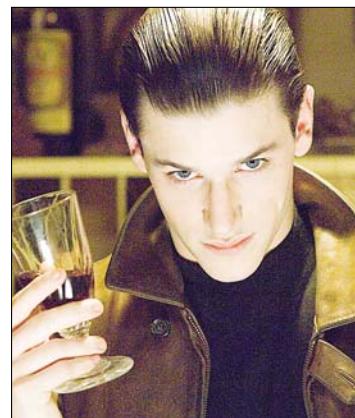
"Young Hannibal" chronicles the early years of Lecter, the serial killer masterfully played by Hopkins in "The Silence of the Lambs," a role he reprised to considerably lesser effect in the sequel "Hannibal" and the prequel "Red Dragon."

The story opens in Lithuania in 1944, where Hannibal, sister Mischa and their parents are trying to ride out the last gasps of World

War II. Caught between the Soviet advance and the final savagery of local Nazi sympathizers, Hannibal winds up orphaned and emotionally shattered by an atrocity involving his adorable baby sister.

Harris and director Peter Webber gloss over Hannibal's early teen years in a Soviet orphanage and his escape to the West, clunkily transplanting him in an instant to the bosom of his beautiful aunt, Lady Murasaki (Gong Li), in France.

Hannibal gets lessons from his aunt in Oriental warrior traditions and as a young medical student gets



HE'S NOT HEAVY: Gaspard Ulliel's portrayal of Hannibal Lecter is lightweight.

to play with cadavers, both pastimes that will serve him well in his future hobby as carver and consumer of human flesh.

Early on, there are traces of wicked humor and insight into Hannibal's bestial development, but "Hannibal Rising" quickly tumbles our protagonist into vengeful butchery merely to satisfy his — and the filmmakers' — bloodlust.

Hannibal embarks on a reign of revenge involving a local butcher who insulted his aunt and then on the brute (Rhys Ifans) and his henchmen responsible for his sister's horrible fate.

It's savage, visceral — and kind of boring. Nothing Hannibal does, internally or externally, is terribly interesting, and Ulliel's lightweight presence doesn't help.



DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

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STRATHMORE
AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND LIFE

Fleeting Fame and Life

A clunky 'Factory Girl' wastes the talents of dazzling Sienna Miller

FILM | Sienna Miller remains an actress in search of a movie worthy of her talent.

In "Factory Girl," Miller appears in nearly every scene as Edie Sedgwick, the old-money socialite who became Andy Warhol's doomed muse. She can be dazzling, vulnerable, childlike, narcissistic, but always riveting to watch.

But while she gives a raw, vibrant performance, she's consistently hampered by the film's clunky script.

Director George Hickenlooper hits the best-known moments of Sedgwick's life, re-creating them with all the convincing detail of a giant game of dress-up, but provides little insight.

Miller, meanwhile, is stuck saturating the film with voice-overs about the time (New York in the mid-'60s) and the people (Warhol's menagerie of artists and outcasts) in Sedgwick's brief life.

The paint-by-numbers "Factory Girl" follows Sedgwick's rise from aspiring art student to the toast of Manhattan, then her subsequent fall. She comes to the city aspiring to be Holly Golightly, but once she



15 MINUTES: Edie Sedgwick's fame for being famous presaged that of Paris Hilton.

meets Warhol she becomes a superstar all her own — a pioneer of being famous simply for being famous, decades before Paris Hilton.

Guy Pearce is detached and creepy as the artist, but we don't come away understanding him any better than we do Sedgwick. Jimmy Fallon is fine in a rare dramatic role as the gay friend who introduces Sedgwick and Warhol, with Mena Suvari playing another of Warhol's wealthy hangers-on.

Hayden Christensen, meanwhile, shows up in the second half billed only as "Musician," though he's clearly intended to function as the

Bob Dylan figure in the film. Mainly he does a bad, breathy Dylan accent, but he and Miller do share a warmly photographed love scene.

Being torn between these two towering cultural figures tears Sedgwick apart, but her spiral from recreational drug user to full-blown addict happens in the blink of an eye.

That may be appropriate in telling the story of a young woman who died of an overdose at 28 — and whose short life line on her palm warned her of her fate early on — but that doesn't make it satisfying. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



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TIME OF YOUR LIFE: Krunk, an unrivaled party, returns to send off DJ Ragz, left.

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

Maybe you've heard ads or seen fliers for "Rick Ross Birthday Bash: Hustler's Night Out Pt. 2." Maybe you thought it would be cool to see Mr. Port of Miami at a club the size of **AVENUE**. However, when one reads the flier, one may notice that there is nothing about Rick Ross actually being anywhere near D.C. We can't get the club to give us a straight answer about its plans for the night. So if you're heading down, madpowerunit.com event pass in hand, consider yourself warned. If Ross shows, it'll be one of the biggest parties of the young year. If he doesn't, well, you'll still get the lavish open bar from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., a soul food buffet at midnight and DJ Quicksilva knocking out the hip-hop hits.

SATURDAY

When Krunk first hit Bethesda in the summer of '03, it gave us an incentive to hang out in Montgomery County. DJ Jesse Tittsworth, DJ Cam One, Dave Nada and Optimist Rhymez turned an unremarkable restaurant into a local nightlife scene that hasn't since been matched. Local rappers

clamored for mic time in front of a mixed audience of party girls, music heads and singles on the prowl. Baltimore club music mixed with underground hip-hop and retro hits and no one's groove was displaced. Krunk eventually moved to Dupont Circle and ended its run soon after, but our memories remain fond. In honor of frequent Krunk guest DJ Ragz's imminent move to the West Coast, the Krunk crew is cranking up the wagon again for one night only. Get rocked by all five Krunk DJs for free tonight at **COMET**.

Comedy, go-go music, food and DJs: These are the main ingredients for a true cabaret experience. Cabarets take place outside of the influence of the nightlife biz, where grown-ups put on nice clothes to party with each other at fire halls and other community spaces around town. You usually have to hit up local boutiques, barber shops and restaurants to cop advance tickets, and don't even think about wearing athletic gear. This is the type of atmosphere that comes to mind to describe what's going down at **MIRRORS**. The Reflection of Laughter & Soul starts with an open bar and buffet at 8 p.m. with Billy the Kid leading a slate of stand-up comics. The ASAP Band and Chuck Brown crank up the latter portion of the evening.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at washingtonpost.com/cityguide



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FRI 2/9 | 8 PM

VASHTI BUNYAN



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ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES (PG, 94 minutes) This CGI movie is based on the children's book "Arthur and the Minimoys." The precocious and imaginative Arthur minimizes himself to join the world of the almost microscopic Minimoys. The movie is easy to lightly enjoy, but it isn't quite so easy to love because French director Luc Besson has devoted more attention to technology and his visual schemes than to making a propulsive story. (DT)

BABEL (R, 142 minutes) Director Alejandro González Iñárritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga tell multiple stories in multiple locations around the globe. Each tale is completely compelling on its own, and Iñárritu also proves superb at working with amateur actors. Yet as sophisticated a piece of filmmaking as it is, it seems hamstrung by the banality at its center and it never assembles into a satisfying whole. (SH)

BECAUSE I SAID SO (PG-13, 102 minutes) Daphne Wilder (Diane Keaton) is an almost-60-year-old mother of three grown daughters, the youngest of whom (Mandy Moore) she's desperately trying to marry off. Daphne is the embodiment of toxic parenting, her enmeshment in her children's lives so neurotic that she seems more like a stalker than a mother. And what the filmmakers try to play for laughs—a mom and her daughters chatting about orgasms while shoe shopping—isn't funny. It's creepy. (AH)

BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE (PG-13, 98 minutes) This is basically a wan, morose teen clique movie thinly disguised (and dishonestly marketed) as a werewolf film. Fans of the genre will be gravely disappointed by the special effects, because there aren't any: It's all done with photography as teenage boys turn into actual wolves (not werewolves) between cuts. They could have made it in 1932! (SH)

BLOOD DIAMOND (R, 125 minutes) Pounding action, pulse-quickenning adventure and of-the-moment politics animate this mostly great thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio. He plays a smuggler named who finds himself a mercenary middleman between rebels in Sierra Leone and European diamond merchants. Things get out of hand during the last half-hour, but the movie is a gem. (AH)

BORAT (R, 89 minutes) Borat, played with seamless disingenuousness by Sacha Baron Cohen, has come to America to



DAVID GIESBRECHT/ONYX PICTURES

'OH, MY. GAWD! THIS JUNKY FLICK WAS THE TOP MOVIE LAST WEEK?' "The Messengers" cast reacts to BoxOfficeMojo.com

make a feature-length documentary for the people of his home country. As Borat cuts his wide and occasionally vicious swath, no petard goes unhoisted. It's a spectacle that delivers squeals, howls or at least low-level chuckles. The movie is a perfect combination of slapstick and satire. (AH)

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13, 140 minutes) Reinventing James Bond as a kind of Navy SEAL with an attitude problem, this movie turns out to be cracking good entertainment. Daniel Craig kicks major maximus as a Bond who'd never use a computer where a punch will do. And he is seemingly the first Bond to actually bleed. Half an hour too long and with too many villains, the movie nevertheless proves you seldom go wrong if you make a movie that leaves you stirred, not shaken. (SH)

CATCH AND RELEASE (PG-13, 113 minutes) Jennifer Garner plays a woman mourning the death of her fiance. As Garner's character learns shady things about her dead ex's romantic past, she seems headed for a restorative romance with one of his friends — then another, seemingly more appropriate suitor rears his head. Despite the film's attempts to imbue Garner with spark, she disappears into the supporting pack in a film. (DT)

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G, 98 minutes) E.B. White's children's book starring Wilbur the curly-tailed runt, his human friend, Fern and spider Charlotte has been charming kids into bed forever. Those kids and their children can rest assured that the movie shares their reverence. The performers, at times, sound as if they're doing a casual read-through before the actual show — but their relaxed spirit is subtly satisfying. (DT)

CHILDREN OF MEN (R, 106 minutes) This audacious, sweeping, sobering

and exhilarating film stars Clive Owen as a bureaucrat in 2027 London, the last outpost of the closest thing to civilization in a world gripped by pandemic infertility and a worldwide immigration crisis. When Owen's character, Theo, is pulled back into his activist past by his former lover, he embarks on an epic chase adventure in which the motivation is nothing less than the survival of the human race. (AH)

CONSTELLATION (PG-13, 95 minutes) Gabrielle Union plays Carmel Boxer who, in the early 1940s, is in the giddy throes of love with her white boyfriend when racial politics forces them apart. The rest of Union's life is one of regret, and, when she dies, her relatives gather to celebrate her legacy. Unfortunately, writer-director Jordan Walker-Pearlman takes on too nebulous and elusive a theme — the mystical power of love — to give us little more than a general vision of humankind. Ultimately, audiences will have to satisfy themselves with the collective presence of these actors and the movie's obviously good-hearted intentions. (DT)

THE DEPARTED (R, 149 minutes) A deranged wit runs through this film, which finds Martin Scorsese up to his same old tricks of exploring an American ethnic subculture with frequent detours into carnage and mayhem. Scorsese plumbs the colorful depths of the Irish mob in Boston. The movie crackles right along, stopping only for Scorsese's signature bursts of explosive violence. (AH)

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13, 131 minutes) "Dreamgirls" arrives with more than its share of baggage; the hit Broadway musical, which opened in 1981, is such a cherished icon that it's taken 25 years for it to be made into a movie. But even with Jennifer Hudson's triumphant arrival and an overall fizzy mood of singing, dancing, pop nostalgia and camp, "Dreamgirls"

is an uneven crowd pleaser. (AH)

EPIC MOVIE (PG-13, 86 minutes) This uncomedy purports to satirize the likes of "The Chronicles of Narnia," "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," "The Da Vinci Code," "Snakes on a Plane" and other questionable hits.

But this movie simply references those films. This isn't satire but flat-ire, and it rewards the audience for having just enough brain cells to recognize the movies and the performers who have seen fit to participate, including Kal Penn, Jayma Mays, Darrell Hammond and Jennifer Coolidge. (DT)

FLUSHED AWAY (PG, 87 minutes) This first computer-generated cartoon by Aardman Animations — best known for Nick Park's brilliant "Wallace & Gromit" franchise — does away with the clay but leaves the craft and emotion intact. When circumstances conspire to send Roddy, a pet mouse (Hugh Jackman), down the loo and into a sewer-level London populated by rats, toads, the odd frog and a charming Greek chorus of slugs, he discovers what's really important in life. Shot through with cheeky wit and hilarious musical numbers by slugs. (AH)

FREEDOM WRITERS (PG-13, 123 minutes) When will the students ditch their attitude and love the teacher — the one trying so hard to reach them? And why do we keep falling for movies as cut and dried as these? Perhaps because these

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

films reinforce our need to see teachers as sensitive heroes. By the simple force of her acting, Hilary Swank (as real-life English teacher Erin Gruwell) is compelling as she faces the hostility of her students. (DT)

GOD GREW TIRED OF US (PG, 89 minutes) The title of this documentary is taken from an interview with the film's

most engaging subject, a charismatic and indomitable Sudanese refugee named John Bul Dau. He's trying to explain the atrocities he suffered and witnessed as one of 27,000 "Lost Boys" who trekked from southern Sudan to Ethiopia and finally to Kenya to avoid slaughter during the 20-year civil war. Dau is one of three Lost Boys whose resettlement in the United States is chronicled in this affecting and engaging film. Director Christopher Quinn gracefully portrays the cultural clashes and limns with economy and subtlety the epic struggles of

three young men building new lives while trying not to forget the devastation they left behind. (AH)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R, 157 minutes) Edward Wilson (Matt Damon) is from one of those old families—the ones that knew everybody, got the best jobs and knew which wine went with which course. The thrust of the film is his journey to becoming a Central Intelligence Agency player of the '60s, but his investigation stops to wander through history, tracking what may be Edward's growth or his damnation. The movie is serious adult movie-

making from director Robert De Niro, a man deeply interested in the art, craft and psychology of espionage. (SH)

HAPPY FEET (PG, 98 minutes) Anyone watching this computer-animated flick about an adorable tap-dancing penguin named Mumble is going to, well, flip. The movie's terrific songs are a warm cushion of welcome. (DT)

THE HITCHER (R, 83 minutes) If you're driving by a theater that's showing this movie, remember what your mother said about picking up hitchhikers: Don't even think of stopping. We offer that advice

after we stopped to watch this remake of the 1986 action-horror flick. You'd be better off renting the first film; the latest version is a dismal, bloody effort that can't even honor the clichés of horror-flickdom. (DT)

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R, 121 minutes) This film concerns the flamboyant African despot Idi Amin, said to have been responsible for the murder of 300,000 of his fellow Ugandans during the '70s. The movie uses a fictional device to get up close and personal, but Amin, representing a human extreme, is

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so much more interesting than his wit-ness, a young Scottish doctor. (SH)

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA (R, 140 minutes) Clint Eastwood's film starts and stops on "Sulphur Island," where on Feb. 19, 1945, two divisions of Marines came ashore in what would be one of the bloodiest battles of the war. Like his "Flags of Our Fathers," it isn't really a history of a battle. In the last half-hour, the story, loses its way; lacking any clear-cut goals except survival, the film becomes repetitive. It's a necessary movie; too bad it's not a great movie. (SH)

LITTLE CHILDREN (R, 130 minutes) In this movie, the arrival of a convicted child molester in East Wyndham, Mass., triggers outrage throughout the community. But Ronnie the pedophile (Jackie Earle Haley) is practically one of the good guys. The film is a hugely absorbing social drama that is, by turns, excruciating, sad and sardonic. (DT)

LIVE AND BECOME (Unrated, 140 minutes) Ethiopian Jews and their repatriation to the Holy Land is the political context for Radu Mihaileanu's mostly affecting story of an Ethiopian boy who becomes an accidental part of that communal history. (DT)

THE MESSENGERS (PG-13, 84 minutes) This strictly by-the-numbers modern horror piece makes you wonder why they bothered. Though it's set in North

Dakota, its true point of origin is Hong Kong, from the sibling directing team the Pang brothers (Oxide and Danny), so the movie feels more Asian than Midwestern: floating ghosties, angry birds, eerie crackling sounds and hauntings of an ancient crime. (SH)

MISS POTTER (PG, 92 minutes) In this film about children's author Beatrix Potter (Renee Zellweger), we learn about the restrictive household in which she lived and how she takes comfort in the animals she befriends, adopts and anthropomorphizes in her stories. When Beatrix falls in love with Norman Warne (Ewan McGregor), her publisher and her parents object to the union because Norman works for a living. If the movie is respectful and factually informative, it's also tightly corseted. (DT)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG, 108 minutes) Ben Stiller plays Larry Daley, a divorced dad who finds work at New York's Museum of Natural History. At night, all the stuffed animals, dioramas and mannequins come to life and run amok. The plot thickens, but the movie is mostly all about those eye-popping scenes of lions, zebras, Civil War soldiers and Sacagawea committing sundry acts of mayhem and mischief. (AH)

NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R, 98 minutes) Judi Dench plays Ms. Covett, a salty old pro teaching at an English middle school, and she noted poor Sheba Hart (Cate Blanchett), the new art teacher, back when she came to the young teacher's

Continued on page 28

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Continued from page 25

rescue as misbehavior threatened to turn her class into anarchy. We watch what we think will unspool as a touching story of human weakness as told from a sympathetic viewpoint, but we soon realize that cheesy uplift is not on the menu. (SH)

THE PAINTED VEIL (PG-13, 125 minutes) This high-minded adaptation of an ancient novel by W. Somerset Maugham stars Edward Norton as a stiff research physician who marries a flighty woman played by Naomi Watts. Even though the movie was handsomely shot in the Guangxi province of China, there's almost no engagement with the people, culture or realities of the country in the '20s. (SH)

PAN'S LABYRINTH (R, 112 minutes) It's 1944, the fascists have just won Spain's civil war and a girl named Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) is traveling with her mother, Carmen (Ariadna Gil), to live with her new stepfather, a Nationalist army captain named Vidal (Sergi López). When Ofelia arrives at her new home, it becomes clear she matters little to Vidal. Ofelia increasingly takes refuge in a richly imagined fantasy life, one that eventually leads her to a faun living in the titular labyrinth on the house's property. With this film, director Guillermo del Toro seems to have created his manifesto, a tour de force of cautionary zeal, humanism and magic. (AH)

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13, 117 minutes) This movie is the biography of a real guy named Christopher Gardner, whom Will Smith, charming and bright, embodies to the fingertips. He is a salesman who ends up on the streets—with his son. The movie is almost devised like a rat-in-maze experiment. Every few minutes, some new obstacle comes up for Chris, at which point the film stands back and watches him improvise. (SH)

THE QUEEN (PG-13, 99 minutes) England's constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subtext of Stephen Frears' tragicomedy. The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world. (DT)

ROCKY BALBOA (PG, 98 minutes) There's Sylvester Stallone again, sucking down raw eggs and pounding sides of beef to train for another prime-time bout. It feels like the first fight all over again, and suddenly a silly little movie built entirely on classic hokum seems to matter. Not



DREAMWORKS

FACT OVER FICTION

Life Trumps Drama

"THE SITUATION" is promoting itself as the first American dramatic film to deal with the occupation of Iraq—but it turns out not to matter much. Philip Haas' film demonstrates that there are situations in which actuality trumps fiction, in which the real world is more dramatically compelling than invention. Even if this inconsequential film were better, it still would have a tough time competing against the remarkable documentaries that have come out of that beleaguered country in the past year. KENNETH TURAN (LOS ANGELES TIMES)

just because it's one last roundhouse punch at the world of digital zeros and ones. It matters because this boxer taps into the hope that one day we're going to win big, too, after everyone has given up on us. (DT)

SMOKIN' ACES (R, 118 minutes) In a penthouse suite in Lake Tahoe, a somewhat smarmy guy named Buddy "Aces" Israel (Jeremy Piven) has gone to ground while his lawyer is in D.C. huckstering him off to the highest bidder in the law enforcement casino. Buddy knows too much about not only where the bodies are buried but who turned them into bodies in the first place. Mob bosses realize they have to get him fast, before he clinches the deal and is hustled off to protective custody. Thus, every high-end hit man in the world is contacted and offered a million bucks if he or she can be the one to snuff Buddy; it's kind of like a hit man's Olympics. (SH)

STOMP THE YARD (PG-13, 115 minutes) This is really two movies. The first and most forgettable is the old one about a young man finding himself. The young man is a Los Angeles street dancer named DJ, and at college he decides to commit to a team sport, and as an athlete finds the respect, the brotherhood, the emotional completion that has been denied him by circumstance and pathology. He leads the team to the nationals.

Ho-hum. But the sport isn't basketball or football: It's stepping. And that's the second movie. If you've never seen it, it's quite a show. (SH)

VENUS (R, 91 minutes) Maurice, a veteran stage actor (Peter O'Toole), is about to undergo prostate surgery, which will almost certainly render him impotent. But then he meets Jessie (Jodie Whittaker), a 19-year-old who is sullen and lacking in sophistication, but Maurice sees her as an unwitting Venus, goddess of love and beauty. Normally, we'd balk at a movie about an 80-year-old man's infatuation with a teenage girl, but this film is an edgily charming meditation about the mysteries of attraction. (DT)

VOLVER (R, 121 minutes) Penélope Cruz plays a beleaguered Madrid homemaker at the center of Pedro Almodóvar's warmly seductive movie. She plays Raimunda, an airport cleaner whose quiet heroics take place at home, and she's a subtle revelation. Raimunda's courage is just as compelling as she contends with murder, adultery, incest and beyond-the-grave visits from her mother. (DT)

 REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONGPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

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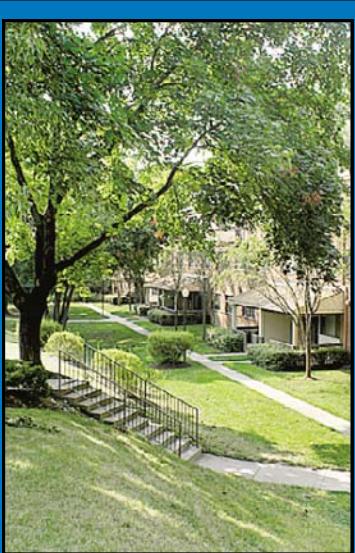
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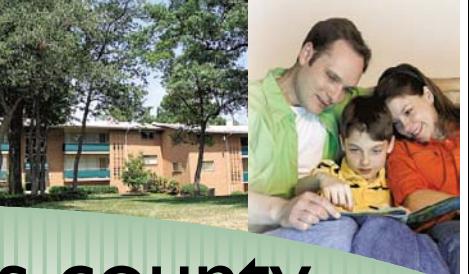
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LANCASTER, PA — 3 LV TH, great investment. Near colleges. \$150K. 717-471-4710 or 240-401-0644.

LANHAM—**RE-CLOSURES** Nice SFH. Buy w/\$1K down. Re/Max One Belinda Gamble 301-675-1109/301-464-0044

LARGO—3BR, 2BA, distress sale, bank foreclosure, receive free list of foreclosure property. Call 24hrs 1-877-449-7814 ID:1042.

LORTON \$349,900-1M TH, 3BR, 2.5BA, condo TH. Lux MSBR suite, hdwd flrs, LR/DR, FHA 100% financing. VA loans ok. Call Kola, Fairfax Realty 703-929-0268, 703-778-1830. Yaskarta Olmos 571-213-7535 Cell

N.E.—4 Unit building. 2BR apts. \$399,000. Must sell this weekend. 240-351-1011 RE/MAX 2000.

N.E. Benning Rd—Renovated Townhome zoned for multiple use. Call me for details. Susie Moore Associates - 301-449-7979

NE OPEN SUN. 12-4 1830 BRYANT ST. 3BR TH. RE/MAX ONE, 301-464-0044

<p

Classifieds

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SILVER SPRING, MD — Church property for sale. Call 301-320-7322

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ROCKVILLE—2 warehouse units for lease. Dock, parking, short walk to Metro. 301-933-6850.

Rockville—Dover Road. 2400 Sq. Ft. \$14 Sq. Ft. Available now. Call 301-294-8773 Weekdays.

WHEELS

ACURA '01 CL 3.2 Type S—Auto. Clean in/out. Runs/looks A+. All svrc records. Slv ext/black int. 81k mi. \$11,900. 240-752-2734

BMW 2004 330—\$29,995. Like new. Perf/Sport Pkgs. 22k mi. Imola Red ext, Black suede int, 4 dr, mem seats. 202-669-0365

BMW '02 330xi—Fun to drive! AWD, excel cond, insp, 1 owner, 68k, loaded. \$19,900. 301-855-8503.

CAD '99 ESCALADE—Auto, Insp'd. All vthr, 103k mi, CD chgr & cass. Airbags, good cond. Alloy whls. \$10,400/obo. 301-577-2674

Cadillac 1999 Deville—\$13,000 obo, loaded, 14k org mi, Pearl White, lthr int, 4 dr, htd mem seats, mint cdn. 703-282-7061

Chevrolet 2000 S-10—\$9800.00 obo, custom, good cond, 78k mi, white, air bagged, shaved, clean, sound system, 7' TV, 3 dr, alloy wheels, will turn heads. 540-818-6392

Chevrolet 2000 Astro—\$5850.00 obo, excellent cond, 87k mi, Blue/Silver ext, Gray int, 4 dr, alloy wheels. 301-514-9433

CHEVY '98 Silverado—excel shape, 45K mi, clean, runs great. \$5750/OBO. 202-415-2062

Dodge 2004 SRT-4—\$13,950 obo, exc cond, 37k mi, Black, 100k ext warr, air ps, sunrf, 1 adult n/s owner 571-235-8346

Dodge 1997 Coachmen—\$12000 obo, Excellent cond, 50k mi, White/blue int, stove, refrig, microwave, TV, DVD Player, new tires, awning. 301-204-5340

Ford '03 Focus—\$8,800, Wagon, excellent cond, 40k mi, dark blue ext, 703-536-3021

FORD '98 Escort—Must see. Good cond. Ready to go. Clean car. Auto. 143K mi. \$1800. Call 240-602-0404

Ford 1998 Windstar—\$2,900 obo, good cond, 145k, light green ext, teal int, 4 dr, Auto, V6, 3.8, one owner 703-909-1577

FORD '92 F150—Conversion van, a/c, ps, pw, TV, VCR, new brakes, current insp., 168K mi., runs great, \$2900. 804-994-3171

HONDA '97 PASSPORT—4x4, Good condition, 124K, runs very well, very clean, \$3800. 703-717-8037

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LEXUS '93 GS300—low mi., clean inside & out, blk ext., tan lthr int., CD player, \$5300/OBO. Call 301-712-1126

MERCEDES '02 ML320—Excel. cond., 63K, loaded, htd seats, 6-CD chgr, blk, w/l, gray lthr, Nav, 1 owner. \$19,500. 703-629-7771

Mercedes-Benz '00 M-Class—\$13300 obo, ML430, GREAT cond, 102k mi, LOADED, 5 cd, ivy lthr seats, NEW Brakes, ftry 4 BIKE rack - 703-864-6171

Mercedes-Benz 2000 C-Class—Kompressor- Ex. cond, 94k mi, Black ext, Grey int, 4 dr, lthr int, Just Serviced- \$10950 OBO. 240-344-1713

MERCURY '01 VILLAGER—Excel cond, 117K, MD ins, AM/FM. \$4750/OBO. 202-492-8976

Mercedes-Benz 1999 E-Class—\$22,000, mint cond, 112k mi, Smoke Silver ext, Beige int, 4 dr, lthr int, sunrf, 703-497-3088

Mitsubishi 2003 Montero Sport—\$12950, 4x4, excond, Garaged, 39k mi, Sil/Blk, 4 dr, AC, PS, ABS, PW, Cruise, Alarm, CD. 202-203-8342

MITSUBISHI '01 DIAMANTE LS—

Sedan, 4-dr, 90K mi., V6 3.5 liter, auto. trans., 4-WD, a/c, ps, pw, pl, tilt whl, cruise control, am/fm stereo, sgl CD, premium sound, VA insp & emiss, dual front airbags, ABS 4-whl, lthr int., dual pwr sts, alloy whls, sunrf. \$7400. Loc'd Vienna, VA. 202-380-7664

Nissan '01 Frontier—\$8500 obo, excellent cond, 114k mi, Yellow ext, Black int, 4 dr, alloy wheels, 571-332-5867

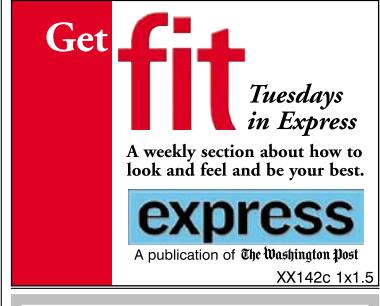
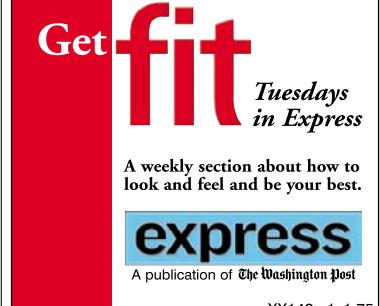
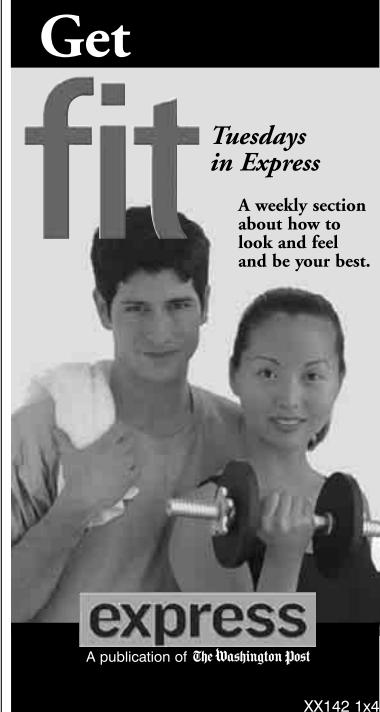
Oldsmobile 1966 F-85—\$6500.00, OBO, garage-maintained cond, 129k mi, navy blue ext, white int, 4 dr, automatic, 301-332-5585

TOYOTA '05 CAMRY LE—Metallic silver, 37k mi, lthr seats, power windows, excel cond. \$13,900/obo. 703-945-9183

VW 2001 Cabrio—\$6000 obo, fair cond, 88k mi, Convertible, Blue ext, Black int, 2 dr, automatic, in Ashburn, 703-724-9874

VW '99 Jetta—VR6, 119K mi., red, sunrf, new tires, well equip., 4-dr, CD, red w/bk int., good cond. Original owner. \$4500. 301-502-7561

VW '98 Passat—5 spd-manual, 1 owner, excellent cond, 49k mi, black ext lots of options \$5000, 301-802-2736



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LOOK out

* TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Travel

It's no longer about buffets and deck chairs on the seas

Finding out what's new in the cruise industry is like playing "Can you top this?"

In case you missed it, ice skating rinks, giant trampolines and rock-climbing walls on board ships are old news, along with wine cellars and menus from celebrity chefs.

The latest innovations for having fun in the middle of the ocean include a bowling alley aboard Norwegian Pearl, and a Flowrider, which lets you ride an artificial wave, on Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas. Norwegian Pearl took its inaugural voyage in December, Freedom of the Seas launched last May, and another Royal Caribbean ship, Liberty of the Seas, which will also feature a Flowrider, debuts this May.

"They're trying to outdo each other in terms of innovation," said Celebrity Cruises president Dan Hanrahan at a January news conference organized by the Cruise Lines International Association. CLIA represents 21 cruise lines.

"We're betting that a roller coaster is going to be next," said Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor of

“A lot of families

have moved beyond the summer road trip and are looking for more enriching experiences."

VICKI FREED, CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES

CruiseCritic.com.

This summer marks the first time that a Disney cruise will hit European ports when the Magic ship launches a series of Mediterranean trips. "We poll our guests all the time as to what destinations they want to go to, and Europe was [on] top of the list," said Disney Cruise spokesman Jason Lasecki. The 10- and 11-night itineraries include eight stops with 190 choices for excursions, from traditional sightseeing in places like Pompeii and the Colosseum, to a Ferrari test-drive and a visit to Narni, Italy, the town said to have inspired "The Chronicles of Narnia."

More than 1 million children under 18 now cruise each year, according to the CLIA. While Disney's cruise ships, which launched in 1998, led the way in making cruising fun for kids, today there is hardly a big ship that doesn't try to appeal to families. It's not just children's menus and glorified baby-sitting;

INSIDE

O.J. smacked down by Cali judge | 42



Blog Log: Ruckus about poor Anna Nicole | 40

All's Fare: D.C. wants metered taxicabs | 42



YOUR SHIP'S COME IN: The Carnival Liberty, a Carnival Cruise Lines ship, motors down the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy.

Cruise Competition

it's video arcades, spa treatments for teenagers, kids' karaoke competitions, not to mention basketball courts, teen nightclubs and on-board water parks.

Of course, not all the news coming out of the cruise indus-

try in the past year has been good. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention investigated 34 reports of norovirus outbreaks on cruise ships in 2006, and another one in January aboard the Queen Elizabeth 2. The cruise industry says

it gets a bad rap because norovirus also strikes day care centers, workplaces and eateries without the same type of scrutiny. By law, cruise ships calling on U.S. ports must report every case of gastrointestinal illness to the CDC.

How missing persons cases are handled at sea also made unwanted headlines for the cruise industry. The investigation into the 2005 disappearance of George Allen Smith IV from a Royal Caribbean ship resulted in congressional hearings in 2006 on maritime security.

Smith vanished from his honeymoon cruise in the Mediterranean after an apparent late night of drinking. No one was charged and no body has been found.

BETH J. HARPAZ (AP)

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from readexpress.com

Most Want Metered Cabs

COMMENTS | Most everyone has a story about confusion in a D.C. cab, and many harbor ill feelings about the city's unique fare-zone map, which has been in place for generations.

Taxi drivers and supporters of the decades-old zone system argue that the established zones help calculate an exact fare. Critics say it is rare when the same cab ride will cost the same, thrown off by various factors, like rush hour surcharges, fuel hike surcharges and detours into an additional zone.

For Thursday's Poll Center question, we asked: "What system should D.C. taxis use to calculate fares? Meters or zones." At deadline, nearly 80 percent of respondents indi-

cated that they would like the fare-zone system scrapped and have cab companies and independent drivers install meters — something that former D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams' administration tried in a pilot study.

This week, Mayor Adrian Fenty's transportation department released a new version of the fare-zone map, aimed at allaying public confusion.

That didn't sway commenter Andy: "While the new zone maps are a huge improvement over the incomprehensible old ones, I still think we'd fare better with meters. There are many times I've wanted to take a cab to save a 10- to 15-minute walk, but the thought of



NEW RAIL CARS: Metro will add new features to a revamped 7000-series rail car.

having to pay \$8 or \$10 minimum just seems crazy."

Said commenter Kenneth: "It's ironic the capital of the free world has a Third World system of taxis. D.C. is the only major U.S. city to not have taxi meters, likely an indication of its corrupt past."

What do you think? Join the dis-

cussion by e-mailing your thoughts to COMMENTS@READEXPRESS.COM.

MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)

→ Coming Up Today

To prepare for the planned rail line to Dulles Airport, Metro is readying a new series of rail cars to add to its transit system fleet.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should sex-ed classes teach about sexual orientation?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

What system should D.C. taxis use to calculate fares?

Meters

79%

Zones

21%

As of 5:45 p.m. Thursday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



"Anyone who makes it in a statewide election in Mass[achusetts] is too liberally compromised to make it in a national election."

A POLIPUNDIT.COM THINKS FORMER MASSACHUSETTS GOV. MITT ROMNEY, A REPUBLICAN, HAS BEEN TOO TAINTED BY THE BAY STATE TO SECURE THE 2008 GOP WHITE HOUSE NOMINATION.

'Jetsons' Architecture

"I love the look of the building. It might be. It might be necessary ... to pressure our [advisory neighborhood commission] to craft a voluntary agreement requiring the 'Jetsons' theme to play on continual loop outside on the sidewalk."

LOGANUPDATES.BLOGSPOT.COM ATTENDED A RECENT NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING WHERE PLANS FOR A LUXURY HOTEL ON 14TH STREET NORTHWEST WERE UNVEILED.

Doomed to Fade Away?

"Unless it is once ahead throttled before birth by the rest of the Republicans, there will be an Iraq debate in the Senate, probably without any danger of any resolutions being passed."

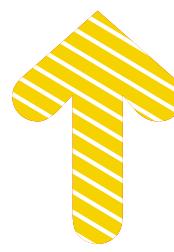
115.ORG ON SEVEN MAVERICK GOP SENATORS WHO WANT TO PUSH AN IRAQ DEBATE.



A Life of Spectacle

"Guess model from 13 years ago? Former Playboy playmate? When your whole life and career are predicated on your looks, and then the cruelties of people who make fun of you for losing them, that's enough to give anyone a complex."

BOZTOPIA.LIVEJOURNAL.COM ASSESSES THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ANNA NICOLE SMITH, WHO WAS RUSHED TO A HOSPITAL ON THURSDAY AND LATER DIED.



Breaking News Play-by-Play

"Dr. [Sanjay] Gupta is finally getting closer to the hard question, noting that she died of heart failure — but what could have caused the heart failure? Sensing the o-word might be coming, [Wolf] Blitzer throws it back to the 'Showbiz Tonight' guy, who [reminds] us of her happier Playmate days."

DEFAMER.COM KEPT TRACK OF HOW CNN HANDLED THE DEATH OF ANNA NICOLE SMITH ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

Live Online

'Punk Love'

SUSIE J. HORGAN, photographer and author of "Punk Love," was online Thursday to discuss her book featuring pictures, circa 1981, of the emerging punk music scene in Washington, D.C.

When taking all of these photographs, did you know they would be of such intense interest 25 years later? Also, had you always kept your negatives archived properly or was it like my photojournalism class, in which everything was stuffed in a box and after a few years you dug them out and realized what great history you had stuffed away?

They were always precious to me. I kept them close to me. No, not properly archived. No, I had know idea the power they would take on.

How would you differentiate your work from someone like Glen E. Friedman's?

Glen's work is great. I remember shooting with him one night at a Fu-gazi show in LA. He took maybe one picture to my every 20. His pictures

are more thought out; I shoot by feel, a true visceral reaction.

Was Ian MacKaye intimidating as a kid? How about Garfield? What were they like?

Ian was and still is a funny, deep, intelligent and highly supportive friend — anything but intimidating. I was a bit shy with Henry [Rollins] at first because his intensity was more apparent. It reverberated; it was such a creative vibe.

Having been lucky enough to have been a part of the hardcore scene in Stockholm when I was living there, my fondest memories of that time were of the youthful energy of the scene, that sense that we were pushing onward toward something better, a feeling that permeated the music and the people associated with and interested in it. What are your strongest memories of D.C.'s punk scene in the early '80s? What chords struck then that you can still hear quite clearly?

I'm happy to have experienced the feeling of community back then and have tried to keep that spirit and energy alive throughout my life, and it has pretty much worked out as such, hence "Punk Love."

DON'T

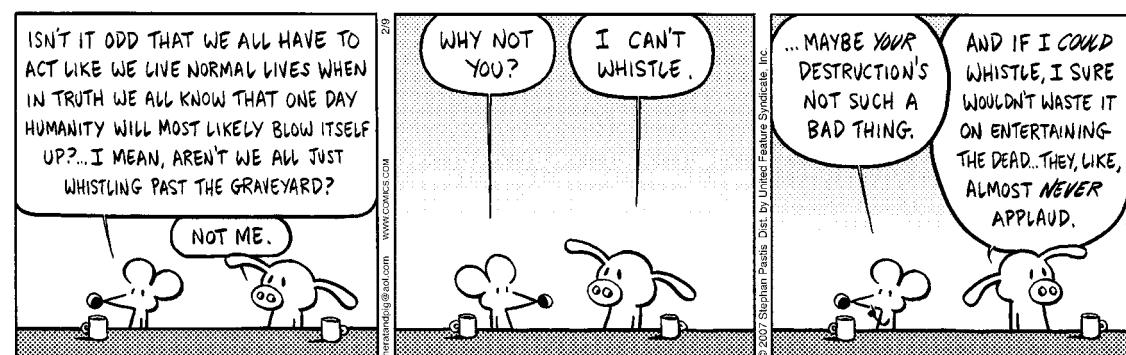
COMMIT AN ACT OF ROAD RAGE. It's a fact: A lot of people in the region do not know how to drive, or, drive like maniacs. Coupled with congestion, it's not only frustrating, but also dangerous. Get a tag number and hold the jerks accountable at Platewire.com.

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: Columnist Cory Ohlendorf gives advice on what to give for Valentine's Day and where to get it at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

Cornered | Mike Baldwin

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan

Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy

Horoscope
By Stella Wilder

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Someone you hardly know may turn out to be the perfect companion. Together, you can explore things in ways that had not been considered.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Novelty is the key. Though routine will not be avoidable, the fact is, you can enjoy more that is new right now than ever before.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your single-minded approach to an important issue should enable you to do what many people in the past have been unable to do. It's a good day.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You may be concerned about a recent decision that may prove to be foolish, but what you must focus on is how to progress uninterrupted.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can introduce a friend or co-worker to something new that may have you both planning on a future very different from the norm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You can do something special and unusual for a

loved one and expect that your good deed will please you more than anticipated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone is looking after you, surely, but that is no reason to think you don't have to be especially careful or responsible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Certain aspects of your love life may come to your attention as you begin to make decisions, once again, concerning the "long term."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Stay in touch with those who know how to make you laugh. It's important you take things lightly, and avoid those who would bring you down.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Be observant at all times. When something new happens, take the time to judge what kind of effect it may have on you and yours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You mustn't just wander through the day with your eyes closed. Take a more active part in all of your own affairs at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'll be able to do whatever job remains to be done once everything else is taken care of. Your energy and enthusiasm are high at this time.

Letters
Goldfish Not Valentine's Gift

I WAS DISMAYED to read that a Detroit pet store chain is injecting goldfish's lips with dye and tattooing them with Valentine's Day messages ("Next, Your Fish Will Want a Tongue Ring," Feb. 7). Goldfish feel — they can live for 30 years or

more and can remember and recognize other individual fishes. Studies have even shown that goldfish show a preference for pleasurable experiences. Acknowledging these capacities, the city of Rome decided to ban keeping goldfish in glass bowls in 2005. Valentine's Day shoppers should stick to buying cards, roses and chocolate.

— JONATHAN BALCOMBE, PH.D.
Washington, D.C.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, P.O. Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1861 Jefferson Davis is elected the provisional president of the Confederate States of America.

1870 The U.S. Weather Bureau is established.

1943 The World War II Battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ends with an Allied victory over Japanese forces.

1950 In a speech in Wheeling, W.Va., Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., charges that the State Department is riddled with com-



Joseph McCarthy charged that the State Department was filled with communists.

munists.

1971 The crew of Apollo 14 returns to Earth after man's third landing on the moon.

LOOK out

People



CARLOS ALVAREZ/GETTY IMAGES

She taunted photogs with her smile.

FOOLISH

You're Not in Private Unless You're in Disguise, Indoors

The Press Complaints Commission in Britain has upheld **ELLE MACPHERSON**'s complaint that Hello! magazine violated her privacy by publishing pictures of the model with her children on a private beach. The commission decided that Macpherson had a reasonable expectation of privacy. (AP)

INDISTINGUISHABLE

Daniel Baldwin Discovered Posing as Billy Baldwin



DANIEL BALDWIN was in Detroit working on a horror film when he was supposed to be at a court hearing in California. A warrant for his arrest was ordered Tuesday by a judge in Newport Beach, Calif. (AP)



COOPERATIVE APPENDIX

How Convenient

R. KELLY missed a court appearance on child pornography charges this week after undergoing surgery for a burst appendix, his lawyer said. Attorney Terence Gillespie said the 40-year-old R&B singer underwent surgery Sunday, shortly after being admitted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. The court hearing was Wednesday. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly sunny	Mostly clear	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny	Cloudy, snow possible

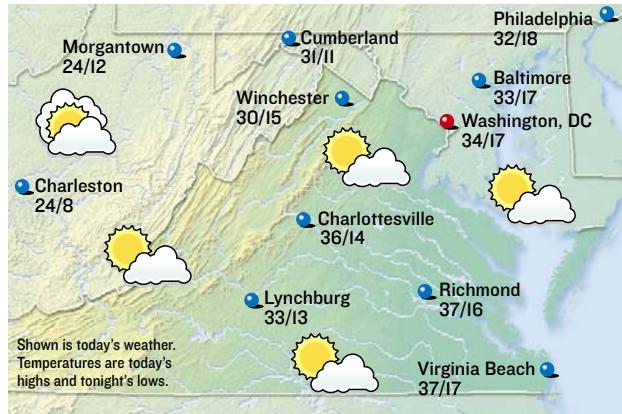
34°

17°

37° / 21°

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
36° / 25°	42° / 27°	30° / 17°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature

High	28°
Low	17°
Normal high	45°
Normal low	28°
Average humidity	28%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.15"
Normal month to date	0.73"
Year to date	2.61"
Last year to date	4.35"
Normal year to date	3.94"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, mostly sunny. High 34. Wind northwest 10-20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 17. Wind northwest 6-12 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:07 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:38 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:05 a.m.
Moonset today	10:16 a.m.

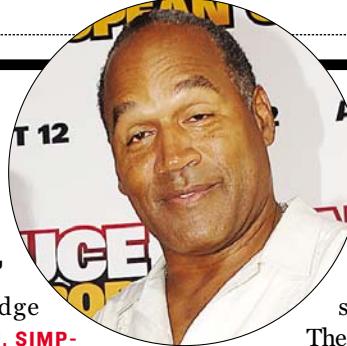


National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	47/27/pc	51/28/s
Boston	28/19/pc	33/20/pc
Chicago	18/5/s	20/9/s
Dallas	50/38/c	48/43/c
Denver	48/27/c	49/25/r
Honolulu	77/64/pc	78/65/sh
Los Angeles	66/52/c	64/52/r
Miami	78/60/pc	79/62/pc
New York City	30/23/s	32/22/s
Orlando	75/50/pc	73/47/pc
Seattle	50/42/r	50/42/r

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	43/36/sf	41/37/r
Athens	59/41/pc	59/45/c
Berlin	37/30/sn	34/25/c
Buenos Aires	82/70/sh	88/73/s
Calgary	10/-4/sf	14/2/c
Dublin	43/37/pc	46/41/r
Geneva	48/32/c	42/36/i
Moscow	9/5/sn	10/9/sn
Rome	57/48/r	61/48/r
Sydney	77/68/pc	75/67/t
Tokyo	50/44/sh	54/41/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



ABSURD

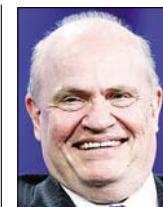
'Don't Spend Money You Don't Have From a Show That Didn't Air'

A California judge has ordered **O.J. SIMPSON**

SON to stop spending money he received for his unpublished book, "If I Did It." The Wednesday ruling extended a restraining order barring Simpson from spending any earn-

ings from past deals, including books, films and sports memorabilia.

The order, sought by Ron Goldman's father, initially did not apply to the advance from the book-and-TV deal for "If I Did It." The new order will remain in effect until a Feb. 20 hearing. (AP)

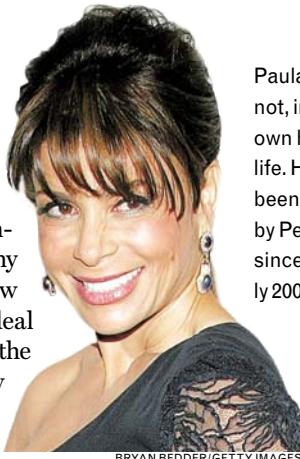


who plays a prosecutor on "Law and Order," listened while Libby's defense attorney cross-examined Tim Russert. (AP)

VISITORS

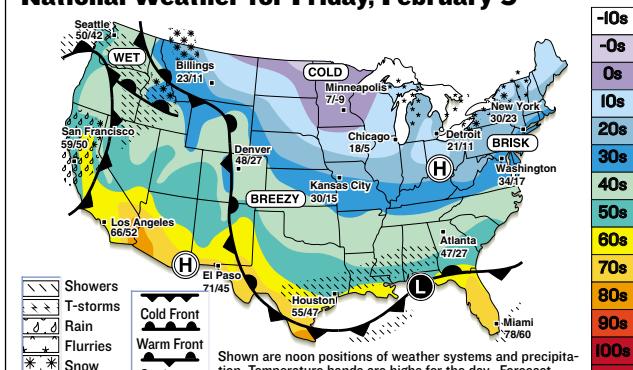
Lending Credibility ... Not

One of the nation's most familiar "prosecutors" showed up in I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby's camp in court Thursday. Former Tennessee Republican Sen. **FRED THOMPSON**,



Paula does not, in fact, own her own life. Her life's been owned by Pepsi since roughly 2001.

National Weather for Friday, February 9



LOOK out

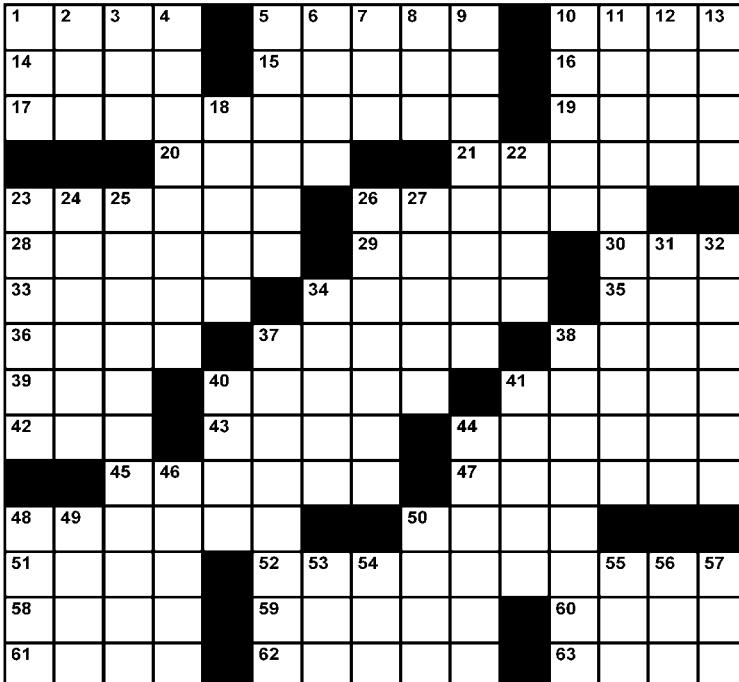
Touch 'Em All

ACROSS

1 Patron saint of Norway
 5 "Don't ___ surprised"
 10 One place to worship from
 14 Munster mister
 15 Woodworker's fastener
 16 Locale in a Christie title
 17 It sweeps across the face
 19 One way to start the fall?
 20 Gas that's hard to ignore
 21 Palms off
 23 Wicker material
 26 New Age practitioner
 28 They know the ins and outs of the theater
 29 Nuncupative
 30 Fa-la link on a musical scale
 33 Potato coverings
 34 They hold flowers
 35 ___ la la
 36 Like some crosswords
 37 Nevada getaway
 38 Word with "bear" or "sand"
 39 Abolish
 40 Burdens down
 41 They have heads and tails
 42 Sched. approximation
 43 Lamb's "Essays of ___"
 44 Sing a different tune
 45 Brought to mind

DOWN

1 Pained reactions
 2 Actor Marvin
 3 Rainbow feature
 4 Type of suspension
 5 Accessories
 6 Columbia Pictures
 7 co-founder Harry
 8 Yen fraction
 9 Former sweetheart
 10 Those opposed
 11 Starters on a team
 12 Came down to earth
 13 Multiple curls, e.g.
 18 Moves toward
 22 Olive and corn, for two
 23 Fraternity

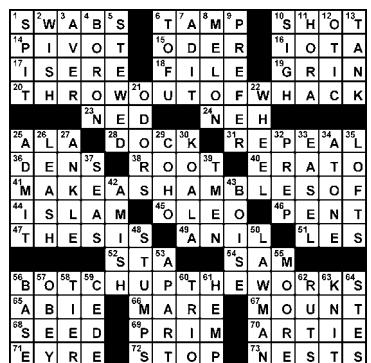


EDITED BY TIMOTHY PARKER

hopeful
 24 Obliquely (Var.)
 25 Harsh questioning
 26 Quick-tempered one
 27 Popular cookies
 31 Color in a Kubrick film title
 32 Runs out
 34 Hawkins or Thompson
 37 Use job-related jargon
 38 One way to sway
 40 Revolutionary Trotsky
 41 Crazy Horse, for one

44 Overparticular
 46 Wind-direction devices
 48 Brief bio, in passing
 49 Crafty move
 50 Small price to pay
 53 Be in hock
 54 Coped effectively with, as a challenge
 55 Creator of a famous James
 56 Notable 1980 TV debut
 57 Your consciousness of your own identity

Yesterday's Solution

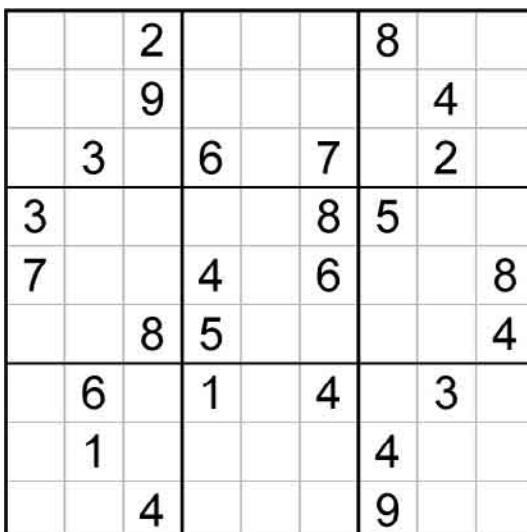
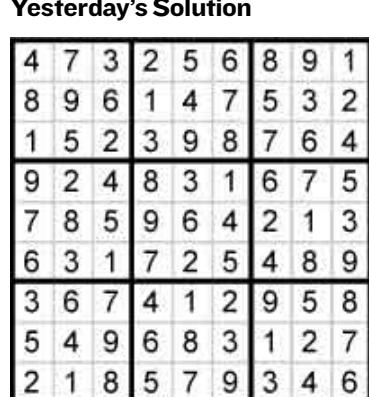


Sudoku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Sudoku?
 Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.



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Weekend Styles

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2007



On Vamp:
A burlesque
babe on sexy
moves and
sequins | **E2**

express

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face time

■ Sequined pasties, sky-high platform shoes and thigh-high fishnet tights don't star in most women's work wardrobes. But they're the standard uniform for Trixie Little (nee Keri Burneston), a Baltimore-based burlesque performer. With her boyfriend/partner in crime Adam Krandell, aka the Evil Hate Monkey, she vamps it up in "Burlesque-a-Pades" on Feb. 14 at the Birchmere.

You specialize in neo-burlesque. Can you define that?

To me, it's anything that is set to music with lots of double entendre. It's a type of dance and movement that really plays with sexuality.

So, you guys don't take it all off?

Most neo-burlesque people don't. It's a kind of flirting, saying "I'm not going to; you can only see so much" thing.

What can we expect from your parts of the "Burlesque-a-Pades"?

We're going to be doing two new pieces. One's a film noir-inspired one, and the other's about forbidden love set to "Total Eclipse of the Heart." It's very '80s-inspired. Before we did it, we watched a lot of dance movies.

So, it's a little "Dirty Dancing" and a little "Flashdance."

Does the act keep you in shape?

We're about being sexy, glamorous and super-strong. So, we train in circus acrobatics, and I do a lot of yoga. But there's always a lot of champagne after the shows, so that doesn't help.

What makes a song good for a burlesque number?

It's got to have something sassy going on. It's important that the music have drama and something to punctuate the moves. We've done our act to "Safety Dance" and also to more classic things, like "My Heart Belongs to Daddy." But it's great to do something surprising.



PHOTO BY GARY LEE

Trixie Little

BURLESQUE DANCER, SEQUIN FIEND

Any recommendations if someone wants to do a bit of burlesque at home on Valentine's Day?

Too much is never enough, and that goes for everything you have on. With makeup, go way over the top so you feel like a drag queen. Everything you wear should be tight, short and sparkly. There aren't enough sequins and rhinestones used in everyday life!

Where do you get show clothes?

I often get shoes at Target, because they have good retro things for 20 bucks. Or fetish shops sell big platform heels. But for clothing, I primarily make things with my grandmother, who used to sew her own square-dance costumes. I like lots of rhinestones and reliable fasteners. This stuff has got to come off on cue.

"I like rhinestones and reliable fasteners. This stuff has got to come off on cue."

So, that means a lot of Velcro?

Actually, no — it gets stuck to fishnets. Zippers get jammed. Snaps are my favorite.

How do you dress when you aren't bumping and grinding?

I like color and wearing crazy, kitschy things like 1970s snow pants.

What's the Baltimore space you and Monkey share like?

We collect a lot of things. Our living room is painted red with a bullfight theme and lots of velvet curtains. Our bedroom is a tiki theme with all kinds of monkey tchotchkes — coconut monkey heads, a Chiquita banana cookbook. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

IN THE POST TODAY



Love Stories, Past, Present and Future

Nine local couples share their tales of romantic happiness and offer tips on how you can find your own happy ending, in the Weekend section.

Also in Weekend: D.C.'s punk scene, the early years. *Edward Scissorhands* comes to life. Plus, the weekend's best bets, shows to catch, and what's new at the movies, on DVD and in video games.

Great weekends start with the Weekend section. Get it today!

The Washington Post



2

A Forest Range

WOODLAND CREATURES — doe-eyed deer, fuzzy squirrels and slightly sinister owls — go Baroque on hipster French design house lBride's new line of trays (\$59 each, velocityartanddesign.com). Though the colorful wood and laminate ovals can be used to serve nuts and berries, the dreamy, flower-embellished pieces could also be hung on the wall in multiples as a sort of PC, post-modern shooting gallery.



5 Tell a Pretty Lie

PRETEND YOU MADE a V-Day meal for your sweetie with chef-prepared, heart-shaped seafood ravioli — plus champagne cream sauce and baby asparagus — delivered to your door on dry ice (\$15, homebistro.com). Boil the vacuum-sealed bags to prepare, and be sure to leave some dirty pots in the sink.

1 Stamp of Approval

IT TAKES A LITTLE PRACTICE to master Lorac's intriguing new cosmetic delivery system, the Cheek Stamp (in five shades, \$22, Sephora). It works exactly as the name suggests — a spring-loaded foam "stamp" dips into powder blush when the lid is depressed. This applies a rather startling pink circle, which one must blend to avoid looking like an 18th-century French prostitute. The genius is that it really does leave just the right amount of blush on one's face. Most shades are matte (that's Pink Paradise, right); Hibiscus has a touch of glitter.



Play It Again, Fan

4

YES, YES, LP FANATIC — we know vinyl has a richer, purer sound. Please don't write us letters. But should one wish to experience one's out-of-print tunes in the car or on an iPod, one might consider the new LP-to-MP3 Converter (\$170, hammacher.com), a USB turntable for PC or Mac that digitizes records — even little old 45s.



Legs Up on The Competition

3

THE INSTANT CUSTOMERS walk into Grape Legs, a new vino venture off U Street (1905 9th St. NW; 202-387-9463), owner Franco Clark asks them whether they want to drink some wine. If they oblige, they can sample three of the store's carefully curated 102-bottle collection — all reasonably priced, with a large chunk in the \$10-\$15 range (like this delicately fruity \$13 Sauvignon Blanc). Come April, an upstairs bistro will let you enjoy a bottle without a corkage fee.

dear
manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBUGGER

I have very long, narrow feet — size 12AA, to be exact. I'm also plagued by foot and knee problems, such that I am forbidden from ever again wearing high heels. Help me! — CLAIRE

■ Manolo says, ayyyyyy! The excessively long, narrow feets? You have the Jackie O foot! Or, perhaps more distressingly, the Paris Hilton foot. You are indeed lucky and/or cursed to have such gigantic, elegant, aristocratic and/or skanky feets.



Happily, for the ladies who are not Jackie O nor the Paris Hilton, to have the big foot is no longer the insurmountable problem it once was, as the feets sizes of the mythical Ms. Average Shoe Wearer have increased over the past three generations to the most impressive eight and the half. And thus many of the shoe manufacturers have begun to introduce the larger sizes.

Sadly, to not be able to wear the high heels would be the dreary and frustrating limitation. However, do not worry, the Manolo can find the boat-like shoes to fit your feets. Look, here is the most handsome, low-heeled boot from the Sesto Meucci (\$254, zappos.com) that comes in exactly the 12AA!

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Shoe by Moschino Cheap and Chic (\$395, [Sassanova](http://Sassanova.com), 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-471-4400). Photo by Michelle Repiso.

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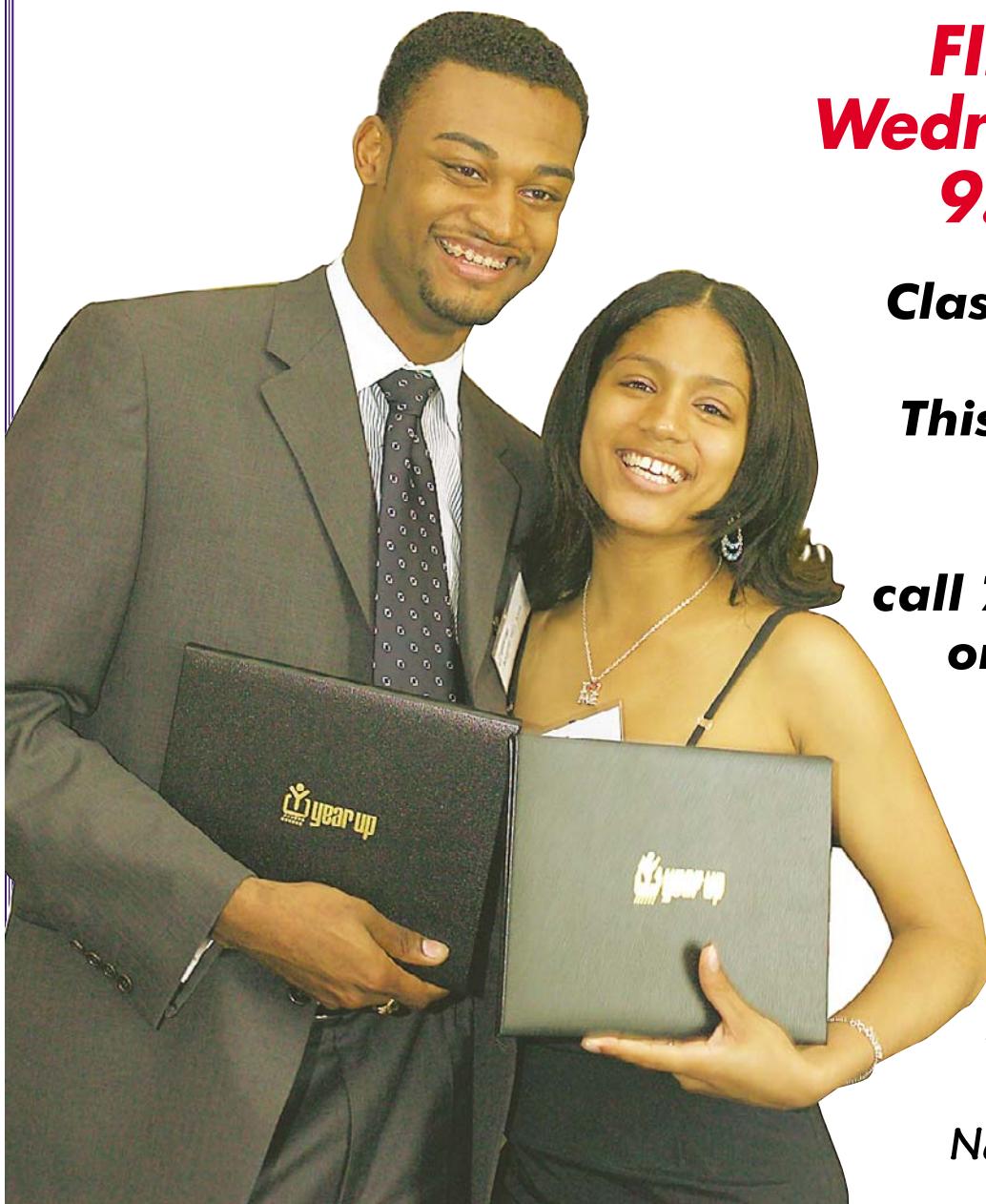
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MARCH 5, 2007 ENROLLMENT**

**FINAL INTERVIEWS
Wednesday, February 21
9:30AM-12:00PM**

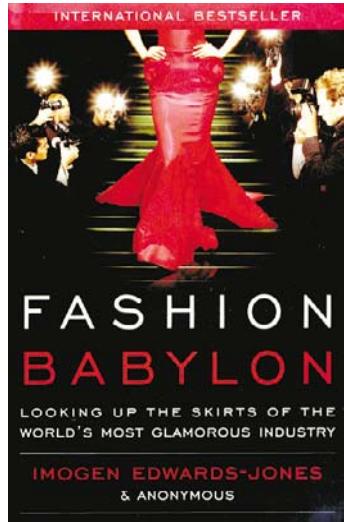


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A book gives the lowdown on the world of high fashion



STANHONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Behind the Seams

Every fan of "Project Runway" knows about capellini-thin models and assistant-devouring Vogue editrix Anna Wintour. But the fashion world spins with other secrets, from models who get infections from dirty couture gowns to pricy perfume that costs a few bucks to make. Brit author Imogen Edwards-Jones' novel-like "Fashion Babylon" (\$25, Atria) tracks one designer (a composite of her anonymous sources) through fashion weeks in London, Paris and New York. She chatted with Express' Jennifer Barger about freebie-loving celebs, mammoth markups and other dirt from the "fash pack."

Q+A

You also reveal the surprising reason designers often don't do plus sizes. If they do a 16 or 18, it costs them more to make the skirt because of the fabric, and then they can't charge more for it.

Why are people so enthralled by fashion? It's become democratized because of celebrity magazines. It's only in the last five or 10 years that the woman on the street has known what Prada is. It's those photos of Nicole Kidman in her bikini!

You attended fashion weeks in London, Paris and New York. Did you learn anything shocking?

How filthy the models are. They can't be bothered to have a shower because they get up every morning and get made over.

What about the skeletal ones?

There certainly are girls who are far

too thin. There are stories of some eating tissues to stave off hunger. But it's a very difficult industry to police — are you going to weigh them like jockeys?

"There are stories of models eating tissues to stave off hunger."

What did you learn about designers?

That they work so hard. I thought it was champagne, cocaine and talk, but they have to hit a creative high twice a year on rigorous deadlines. You can't say, "Sorry, I'm not inspired," and call in sick to Fashion Week.

What's the wildest thing you learned doing this book?

It's shocking how much more money stores make than designers. If a skirt costs \$300, the store makes \$210 and the designer \$90.

JUICY COUTURE: Imogen Edwards-Jones' book gives fashion scoop, including gossip about Marc Jacobs shows, left.

Why do some designers make it while others don't?

Well, it's not good if they can draw a beautiful dress but not balance their books. It's a very nebulous thing, and it's about hitting your fashion moment.

Do designers love or hate clothes-borrowing, heck, stealing celebs?

Well, lending celebrities clothing is one of the few ways non-advertising designers can get their names bandied about. If Paris Hilton wears your skirt, it's suddenly cool. But doing it can financially break a house as easily as make it.

I was interested to hear that some counterfeit merchandise comes from the same factories as the real stuff.

We call that cabbage — it's the real thing, made from extra material the designer has provided to the factory. It falls off the back of a lorry, but there isn't much of it. There's far more counterfeit stuff out of Asia, substandard things. You won't get a bag with a Prada label — it'll maybe say Parda or Panda.

After doing this book, do you shop for clothes differently?

I learned to pick my fashion moments more carefully. I'm less carried away by flip-flops with a Gucci label and more inclined to buy a beautifully tailored jacket that takes 10 pounds off. I just got a pair of Alexander McQueen pants that make my bum look much smaller, and it's this brilliant seam that does that.

Any difference between British fashionistas and their American counterparts?

British girls take more risks. American women all like to look the same — the smoothed-out hair, everyone plucked and waxed like a snooker ball and Botched. In the U.K., they care a little less.

Who is a risk-taking British fashion icon?

Well, Sienna Miller. She's quite rough around the edges but prepared to experiment. Think of those black knickers she wore on the red carpet.

peevess of
the pros



PLEASE STOP...

CLOSING YOUR MIND TO LINGERIE

■ Buying fancy underthings is nerve-wracking as it is. And when a salesperson tells you that you're not the size you always thought you were ... well, it can mess with your head.

"We ask people to be open-minded, especially when they're being sized," said Natalie Ortiz, manager of lingerie shop Trousseau (306 Maple Ave. W, Vienna; 703-255-3300). Women often wear cups that are too big and bands that are too small. And yet, they may cling to the size they're used to, rejecting those they've never encountered before. A gal who's been cramming into a 36D (perhaps she was fitted at a mall store, where salespeople tend to squeeze women into sizes the store carries, not sizes the women need) may be rather taken aback to find she's a 34G. They make Gs?

"You usually don't see past a DD, but we have up to a JJ," said Ortiz. A new, especially bigger, size may be daunting, but ultimately change is "a good thing, because we're getting them to the right size." FIONA ZUBLIN (EXPRESS)

event horizon

As if shopping wasn't fun enough, try it with champagne and chocolate-dunked strawberries, skin care demos and a dance class at wellness boutique everything Ro. (\$10, Sat., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., 4550 Montgomery Ave., Bethesda; 301-469-3491)

Styles | fashion

Cold Feet, Hot Shoes

DEFY THE SNOW! DON SPRING STYLES BEFORE THE THAW



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. BETTYE MULLER'S IMPRACTICAL SLINGBACKS might be more suited to impressing your crush than trekking through slush. But in shoes like these, someone's bound to offer you a ride. (\$385, Sasanova, 1641 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-471-4400)

2. LITTLE BOWS ON SHOES are unabashedly girly, but a subdued palette keeps these Pink Studio numbers pretty, not precious. Don them with denim to get the garden party started. (\$58, Shoefly, 2618 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-243-6490)

3. LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS ... oh, why don't zebras get more attention? Maybe the blue metallic accents on this pair by Luichiny will finally propel them to leopard-print status. (\$64, zappos.com)

4. BLACK-AND-WHITE BLOOMS add a retro, Jean-Harlow-goes-to-South-Beach vibe to Claudia Ciuti's slingback heels. (\$270, Betsy Fisher, 1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975)

5. NAPOLEON COMPLEX? Maybe a pair of platform sandals will help. Reach new heights with a pair by Kork-Ease. (\$195, Zelaya, 4940 Saint Elmo Ave., Bethesda; 301-656-8550)

6. TRY STEVE MADDEN'S MOD FLATS with an A-line mini-dress and thick, textured tights for Edie Sedgwick-inspired appeal. (\$60, zappos.com)

7. OOOH ... SHINY. Yin's strap-happy sandals combine solid Italian craftsmanship with a hot-for-spring metallic. (\$179, Carbon, 2643 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-986-2679)

8. SLEEK GROSGRAIN Sergio Rossi flats would create bold contrast against somber (read: boring) winter neutrals. Rock them with a mini when the weather heats up and your legs finally thaw. (\$420, Hu's Shoes, 3005 M St. NW; 202-342-0202)

9. HEEL OR NO HEEL? Compromise with mini-wedges in an '80s-friendly hue. (\$15, payless.com) COLLEEN EGAN



← RED-HOT LOVER

A classic red lipstick should be in every woman's makeup wardrobe. We love the vintage-inspired colors and retro containers of Bésame Cosmetics, especially their vibrant, fiery signature, **BÉSAME RED.** (\$18, besamecosmetics.com)

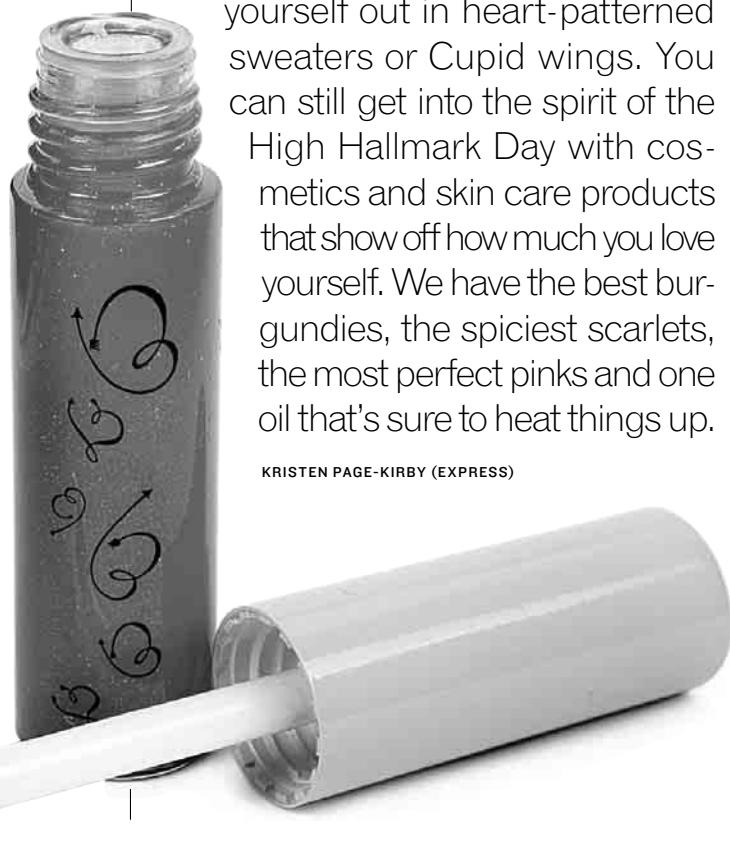
→ SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

I'M SO SEXY LIPGLOSS from Booty Parlor in Cinnamon Spice makes lips as red-hot as the candy that bears that name. The shimmery red looks intimidating, but is actually sheer enough for anyone to pull off. (\$14, booty-parlor.com)



← FOR SWEET CHEEKS

Tarte's **CHEEK STAIN** in Dollface looks Pepto-pink in the bottle, but goes on as a dewy flush of rose—and smells just like strawberry bubble gum or the head of your Strawberry Shortcake doll. (\$18, Sephora).



Love Your Look

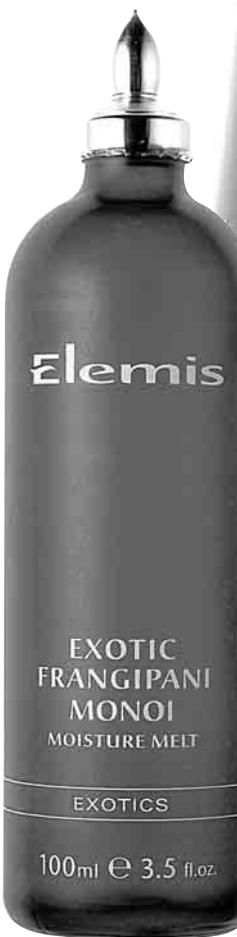
FROM RUBY TO ROSE, SEE RED THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Maybe you're not the type to deck yourself out in heart-patterned sweaters or Cupid wings. You can still get into the spirit of the High Hallmark Day with cosmetics and skin care products that show off how much you love yourself. We have the best burgundies, the spiciest scarlets, the most perfect pinks and one oil that's sure to heat things up.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

← LOVELY LACQUER

Bourjois' SO LAQUE NAIL ENAMEL in Rose Escarpin is the Holy Grail of nail polishes: a sexy, sassy red with enough depth and richness to the color so that it doesn't look cheap. The formula is reinforced with vinyl, so it stays set and shiny for a full seven days. (\$9, Sephora)



← BOTTLED BEACH

The EXOTIC FRANGIPANI MONOI from Elemis is an oil for hair and skin that also works well for massages. The tropical scent makes it lovely for twosomes. (\$48, Nordstrom)

POSSESSION OBSESSION ▶▶ WRITER ALEXANDRA ROBBINS

Muppet Paraphernalia

When New York Times best-selling author and D.C. resident Alexandra Robbins is being interviewed on television wearing boots, it's likely that her Kermit knee-highs are underneath them. "Yeah, I'm a dork," she laughed. "I have a stuffed Beaker, a stuffed Kermit and a stuffed Animal magnet on my fridge, next to a clipping of some interview that was done with Cookie Monster."

The author of "Conquering Your Quarterlife Crisis" and "Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids" owns a not-so-secret stash of stuff related to Jim Henson's pithy puppets including a Gonzo Pez dispenser, a Swedish Chef bookmark and loads of DVDs. Oh, and she christened her green Chevy Kermit.



MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

Robbins grew up watching "The Muppet Show" with her family. Devastated by Henson's 1990 death, Robbins began collecting anything related to Miss Piggy and her posse. She looks for frog- and pig-related swag everywhere she goes, and friends have given her Muppet merchandise as gifts.

So which is her fave Henson creature? "Animal or Beaker," said Robbins. "They crack me up." STEPHANIE JONES

event horizon

Skip your Cosi date today and spend your lunch hour at the Olsson's in Crystal City, where food writer Domenica Marchetti will be discussing "The Glorious Soups and Stews of Italy." Did we mention there are tastings? (Free, Fri. at noon, 2200 Crystal Dr., Arlington, 703-413-8121, olssons.com)

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Pitch a Party, Throw a Story

■ You've probably noticed that some bylines in this paper are followed by "(Express)." Those are Express staff writers, blessed with desks, free soda and steady paychecks. The bylines without the parentheses belong to freelancers, who lack the steady paycheck and free soft drinks, but toil to bring you your favorite Express features nonetheless. That's reason enough to celebrate Freelance Writer's Appreciation Week, which begins Sunday.

Freelancers deserve to be appreciated, said Jamie Barnes

of the Society of American Journalists and Authors, because "they're different than a lot of staff writers in that they focus on their own work and ideals instead of filling the next column. They often take risks that others might not." (Like pitching a Freelance Writer's Appreciation Week Bash in a Flash). "Some of them are very underpaid," added Barnes, "but they continue to do it because they love the work."

The pitch is the lifeblood of freelancers, so let it be the

lifeblood of your party. ASJA offers a personal pitch session at its annual conference (which starts April 20 this year; visit asja.org for details). Personal pitching is like speed dating, explained Barnes, but writers pitch story ideas, instead of woo, to editors and literary agents. For your party, divide guests into editors and writers. Editors have to come up with a publication, and writers have to pitch a story for that publication in a minute or less. The guest who gets the most stories accepted wins — perhaps a gift certificate to Staples.

Freelancers tend to have a feast-or-famine income, so let the party's menu reflect that. Start the night with Cup O' Noodles before moving on to prime rib. For drinks, try wines from a variety of price ranges and containers.

JAMIE PAGE DEATON

1. Freelance writer's appreciation week
2. 3 p.m. - interview with James Barnes, Saja
3. Pitch story to Express
4. Ask for \$2 / word

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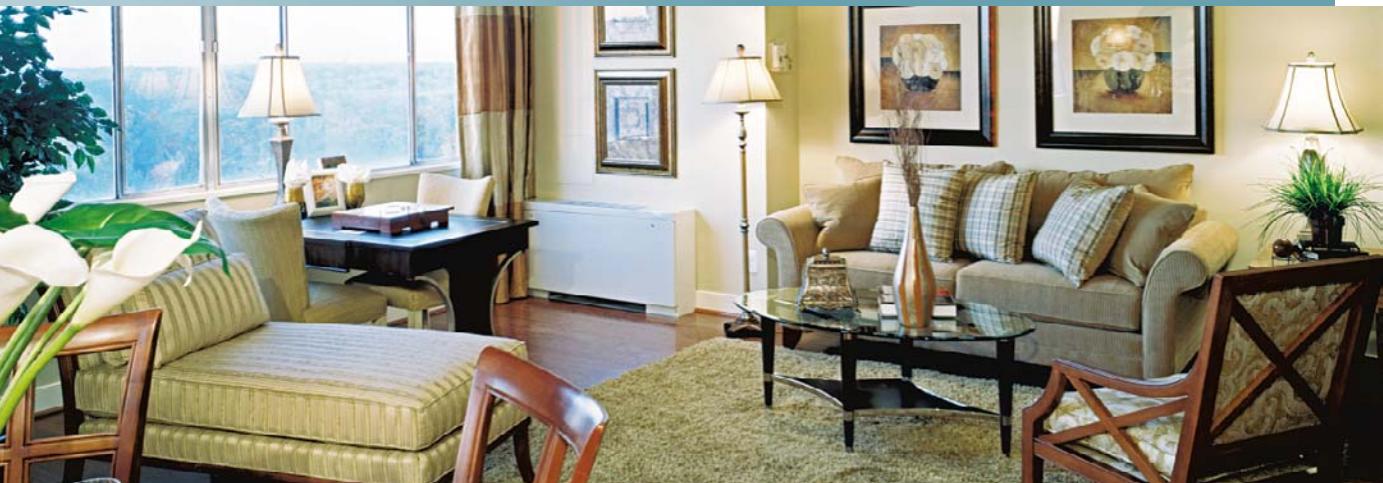
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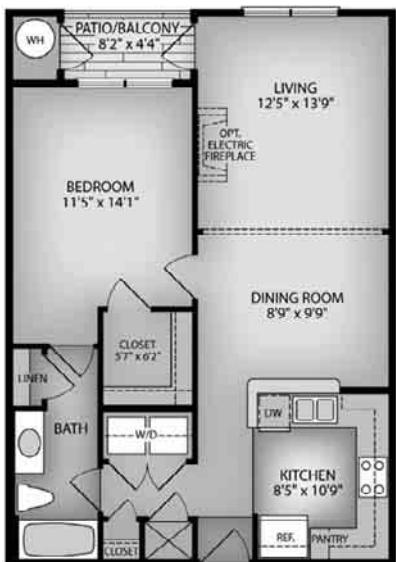


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Some beets can make a rose-colored risotto for your meat-eschewing loved one.

Veggie V-Day Ideas

For Valentine's Day, I was planning on cooking a nice dinner for my husband, but he is a vegetarian and I am stumped for an impressive entree. I've recently done stir-fries and roasted veggie pot pies, but I can't think of anything else to make. He's not big on cream sauces and he is getting a bit tired of pasta, so I'm trying to think of a lighter dish with plenty of beautiful vegetables. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Risottos always make a nice vegetarian main course, especially if you're tiring of the pasta routine. You can borrow an idea from my salmon sauce, and use some beets in the risotto.

I know, it might sound a little weird, but their sweetness melds nicely with a rich risotto and gives the dish a pinkish Valentine's Day hue. To make this, cut the beets into a 1/2-inch dice and roast at 425F until they're tender (about 20 minutes). Then fold these softened beets into a basic Parmesan risotto about halfway through cooking.

For the vegetarian V-Day question, how about heart-shaped polen-

ta slices, pan-fried with a roasted red pepper or tomato or (insert red ingredient here) sauce?

And that.

Does he like Mexican? Rick Bayless books are great — and though meat heavy, there are a few vegetarian casseroles that are tasty and not too heavy. Another vegetarian favorite for me at this time of year is any kind of stew — think tagines for something out of the ordinary.

Indeed, Bayless is a good way to go. With all the winter squash that's available now, you have some prime stewing ingredients hearty enough for a meat-lover's palate. And what about mushrooms?

Free Range On Food

For a vegetarian main course, I'm fond of crepes, stuffed and rolled.

Plenty of options ... ricotta/mozzarella/parsley, spinach and mushrooms with bechamel, greens and ricotta. These are ones I make, but you could go with any number of veggies: winter squash, root veggies and so on. Other rolled foods are good, too. Think of stuffing some Swiss chard or other leaves. Other than that, stacked or layered foods are good. A savory torte or galette is always a winner in my book. And the filling can usually be prepped well in advance.

Crepes — why, of course!

The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at washingtonpost.com/liveonline. Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more.

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Wedding Giveaway

Who'll take the cake?

And the diamonds, and the flowers, and the photography? One of these local couples is going to win a wedding package valued at more than \$35,000, and you get to decide who. We sorted through just shy of 300 entrants — all marrying in the next year or so — and chose the five finalists based on their answers to the questions below. Some were funny, some were touching and some were both, but each couple had a certain something that sparked our interest. To vote for your favorite pair, visit readexpress.com. Voting closes Feb. 16; we'll announce the winners on Feb. 23, right here in Weekend Styles.

1. HOW DID YOU MEET?

2. HOW DID HE PROPOSE?

3. DESCRIBE A TIME WHEN THINGS WERE TOUGH, BUT YOU STAYED TOGETHER AND FORGED THROUGH.

4. IF YOU HAD TO MAKE A TV SHOW, MOVIE OR BOOK INTO THE THEME OF YOUR WEDDING, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?

5. YOU GET TO THE CHURCH ON YOUR WEDDING DAY AND THE ROOF HAS FALLEN IN. WHAT DO YOU DO?

6. WOULD YOU RATHER MARRY IN A LIME-GREEN PROM ENSEMBLE FROM THE 1970S, OR INCLUDE ALL YOUR EXES IN THE WEDDING PARTY?



Candice Osborne, 23
Eric Williams Jr., 23

Eric and Candice will marry March 22, 2008, in Camp Springs.

1 They met at the birthday party of their future maid of honor. Candice was in charge of the guest list: "Unbeknownst to me, I invited this stranger who would later become the love of my life."

2 Eric popped the question in front of the entire 700-member congregation of Evangel Assembly of God, Candice's church. He sang "Cause I Love You" by Lenny Williams, then proposed amid flashbulbs, video cameras and cheering.

3 "From the moment Eric and I met, we made a personal commitment to abstain from sex until we were married. We have found that abstaining from a physical relationship has enabled us to know each other in a more intimate way and we were able to build a more solid relationship. Trust me, he is a VERY attractive man and waiting is not easy. However, we understand that this time will benefit our future more than our present. So, I hope my family will understand when we're not at the reception ..."

4 "Field of Dreams." Eric has played baseball since he could lift a bat and has always dreamed of going to the majors. His greatest inspiration, Eric Williams Sr., was also a baseball player who taught him not only about baseball, but about the importance of life and love. In 2005, his father passed away from ALS. 'Field of Dreams' encapsulates the love that he and I share while honoring the man that inspired his life."

5 "First, make sure no one was hurt. A \$1,000 gown and a three-piece tuxedo aren't going to stop my fiancé or I from jumping over fallen beams and planks. Our guests are important to us!"

6 "We LOVE the soul-filled 1970s. The music, the culture, the clothes. Lime green really isn't my color, but with a smile like this, I think I could make it work. We might as well stroll down the aisle to 'Just My Imagination' by the Temptations."



Sarah Tierney, 27
George Wisnieski, 27

Sarah and George will wed at the U.S. Naval Academy June 16.

1 Even though they met once years before, "the first time I remember meeting her was at her house-warming party in her first post-grad apartment. A couple of friends and I crashed the party and pretty much ate all of the food in about five minutes."

2 "I remember George asking my father for permission over Thanksgiving weekend 2005. Christmas passed and he hadn't proposed. I was starting to get impatient, but he finally proposed on New Year's Eve in New York City."

3 "We started dating in October 2002 and three months later he was deployed to the Persian Gulf with only 72 hours' notice for six months," said Sarah. "It was rough, but when he came back it was like no time had passed. We dated long distance for three years after that. Finally, George got stationed in Quantico, and we were both living in Arlington. We thought things would be easier, and they were for a while. But in December 2006, George had surgery to remove an orange-sized tumor from his brain. The pathology came back; George has cancer. We've decided that we're going to be stronger than the cancer; we have to be."

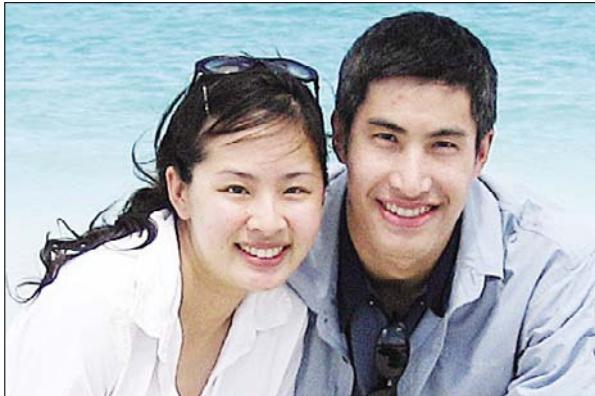
4 "'In Harm's Way' with John Wayne. We would do a 1940s USO canteen theme with the Glenn Miller Orchestra and at the end of the night we would have hundreds of balloons fall from the ceiling."

5 "We'll get married in the parking lot. At the beginning of this process, getting married at the USNA Chapel and all of those things seemed really important, but now I don't really care how it happens. I just want to be married to her."

6 "I'm the first guy Sarah's dated who is taller than her (I'm 6'4"; she's 5'8"). If they showed up, we probably wouldn't even see them."

 **CAST YOUR VOTE!**

Make your voice heard on this important issue! Choose your favorite couple at readexpress.com, where you'll see a link to the contest until Feb. 16. And thanks to all the other couples who entered — we enjoyed reading about your impending nuptials! You're all winners.



Lily Lin, 27
Dan Wong, 28

Lily and Dan will marry July 8 at the University of Virginia.

1 "We were officially introduced at the University of Virginia. I noticed that Dan would be walking out of his Chinese class as I was entering. I quickly learned to get to class several minutes in advance to catch a glimpse of him! Apparently, we had gone to the same high school and I did not even know it!"

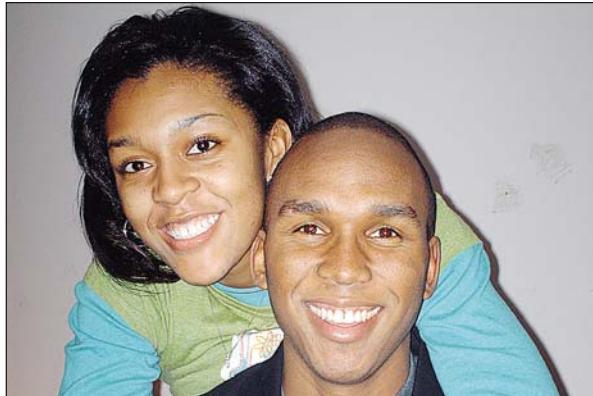
2 "Dan chose to propose while we were on a beach excursion during our Galapagos Islands trip. The setting couldn't have been more beautiful. We should have been in a very romantic mood, but it was at least 90 degrees with 100 percent humidity. We were sweating like crazy, wearing the same dirty clothes we'd been sporting for five days already. Dan had a giant white hand towel draped over his head. Not romantic!"

3 In March 2005, they set out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. By day three, both were in the throes of altitude sickness. "On the morning of the summit, I vomited my breakfast and a pool of blood. I thought I was going to die." They decided to head back, together. "Dan could have probably made it to the top. However, as Dan always says, 'we are a team, and we stay together.'"

4 "I would definitely choose 'Gilligan's Island'! We absolutely love adventure and the great outdoors."

5 "It's not really a question of what I would do, but of what my crazy aunts would do! My mother has eight sisters, each more headstrong, sassy and boisterous than the last. Come hell or high water, they will make darn sure that my wedding day goes on!"

6 "Neither Dan nor I has any exes! We've been dating each other since I was 17 and he was 18. We had our first date with each other, first kiss, first romantic outing, first everything."



Cristan Williams, 23
Montrell Smith, 26

Cristan and Montrell will marry July 7 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

1 They rode the same bus home from work every day, from the NIH to Silver Spring. Montrell wanted to talk to Cristan, but he didn't have the nerve. Then, when he was about to start a new job, he knew he had to speak up or risk never seeing her again. But that day, she wasn't on the bus, so Montrell waited for her near the bus stop. When he saw her, "I started running, crossing three sides of a four-way intersection, through moving traffic. I've never been so nervous before in my life." He handed her his business card and read her the message on the back, asking her out.

2 "As we walked across the spot where we met (at the corner of Colesville Road and East-West Highway), I had a trumpet player play one of her favorite songs, and a friend of mine throw roses at Cristan's feet as I ran a lap around all four crosswalks of the intersection. I professed my love, got on one knee, and handed her a business card with the words 'Will you marry me?'"

3 Four months after they met and shortly after Hurricane Katrina, Montrell's job (he's a civilian engineer for the Navy) called him away to the Gulf Coast for eight months.

4 "Cops" — we have a weekly tradition of eating our favorite meal (Peruvian charcoal chicken) while watching 'Cops'!" And there's always a foot chase in "Cops" — which reminds them of how they met.

5 "Take a collection to help repair the roof of the church! Better yet, who needs a church roof when you're in Jamaica?"

6 Lime green. "It would match our iPods! Plus, it'll look great as we recess from the wedding to James Brown's 'Doing It to Death (Funky Good Time)'."



Fran Campion, 28
Bill Watson, 31

Fran and Bill will marry Oct. 6 in Pottsville, Pa.

1 "We met online at catholicmatch.com. Fran posted her profile on the site to stop her mother's constant suggestions that she do so."

2 One of Fran's favorite places is her mother's kitchen. So, on Thanksgiving morning, Bill proposed while they were in their pajamas, at his future mother-in-law's kitchen table.

3 "In February of 2006, Fran was diagnosed with Stage III colon cancer. Instead of a romantic dinner on Valentine's Day last year, we spent it with Fran's surgeon. Instead of a party on Bill's 31st birthday, we walked the halls of George Washington University Hospital to help Fran gain strength so she'd recover more quickly. We were given the opportunity to face real adversity together so early in our lives. We thought there was no better way to celebrate that than to plan our wedding for Oct. 6 — one year to the day after Fran's last chemotherapy treatment."

4 "'Back to the Future.' There is nothing we'd want more than to go back in time so our fathers, who are both deceased, could be there. It would be trippy, because the prepubescent versions of ourselves would be witnessing their own future wedding."

5 "That would certainly be a good time to have a good, stiff drink — or at least a beer. In that case, it's a very good thing that the church where we are getting married is physically attached to the Yuengling Brewery."

6 Lime green. "Have you ever been in the same room with three girls who dated the same guy, who were all trying to look better than a fourth girl who happened to be marrying that guy? Now, add that guy to the room."

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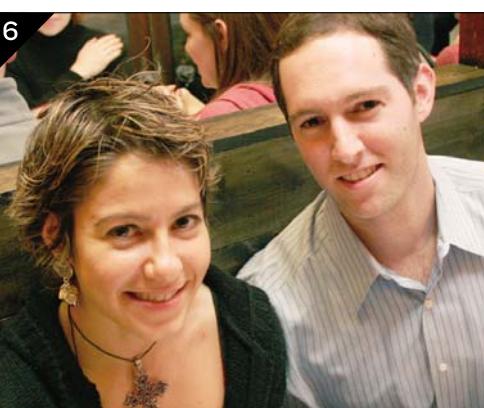
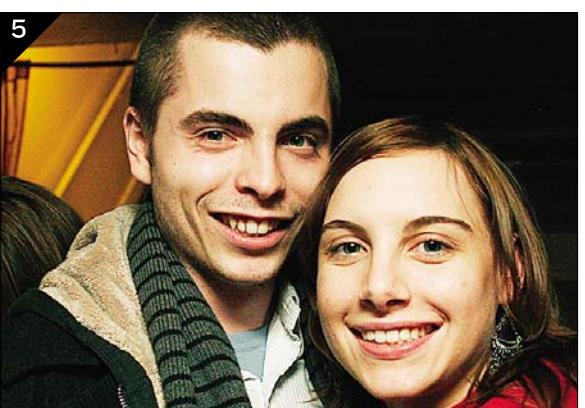
1. "This guy named Pablo I met last weekend."



Q What do you want for Valentine's Day?



2. "I want her to get something at Victoria's Secret for her for me."



CAFE CITRON | DUPONT CIRCLE | FRIDAY, FEB. 2

1. "This guy named Pablo I met last weekend," Amanda Kloer, left. "I don't like Valentine's Day. It's a ridiculous Hallmark holiday. Or a chocolate cupcake," Danielle Buynak, center. "A Five Guys burger," Ellen Whiteman. 2. "A quick getaway to Puerto Rico," Karen Harris, left, with Rashida Johnson. 3. From left: "Chocolate and love," Adam Ratliff. "A girl — a blonde," Adam. "For that special someone to show me what I bought her," Joshua Forotson. "A romantic kiss that tastes like chocolate," Holly Li. 4. "To meet a cute, smart, witty guy," Emily Walker, left. "A gourmet meal at Tosca," Alexia Terzopoulos, center. "A membership to the American Horticultural Society," Allison Cezapp. 5. "For her to get something at Victoria's Secret for her for me," Chris Sowerwine. "Chris Sowerwine," Alyssa Mitchell. 6. "A fur coat," Patricia. "A trip to Vegas," Brian. 7. "Barring sex, I'll go for dark chocolate and red wine," Melanie Civic, left. "To hold a baby panda," Shawntae White. 8. "A hot date, someone I can have fun with," Michael Glick. "Lingerie," Carolina Gov-Leonhardt. 9. "A tennis bracelet to go with my engagement ring," Ella Hazen. "I have to keep it clean? Then I want a Camaro," Brian Crane. 10. "World peace. No, diamonds," Nina. "Hilary Swank," Jonathan Morgenstein. MAURA JUDKIS AND ERIN SHEA



7. "Barring sex, I'll go for dark chocolate and red wine."



8. "A tennis bracelet to go with my engagement ring."



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DIFFICULTY LEVEL: LIGHTWEIGHT

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Last Week's Solution

7	4	8	9	1	2	3	5	6
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7	4	5	6	3	2	1	8	9
8	6	2	9	7	1	3	4	5
9	3	1	5	4	8	7	2	6

How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in Express and The Washington Post.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. As always, there's only one solution, which will appear in next week's edition of Weekend Styles.

 **Can't get enough Sudoku?** Find a standard Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Weddings Wanted*



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